# CHICAGO TIMES

NEWSLETTER OF THE CHICAGO TI-99/4A USERS GROUP

## 7th Annual Chicago TI Faire is SATURDAY NOVEMBER 4th Make your plans today.

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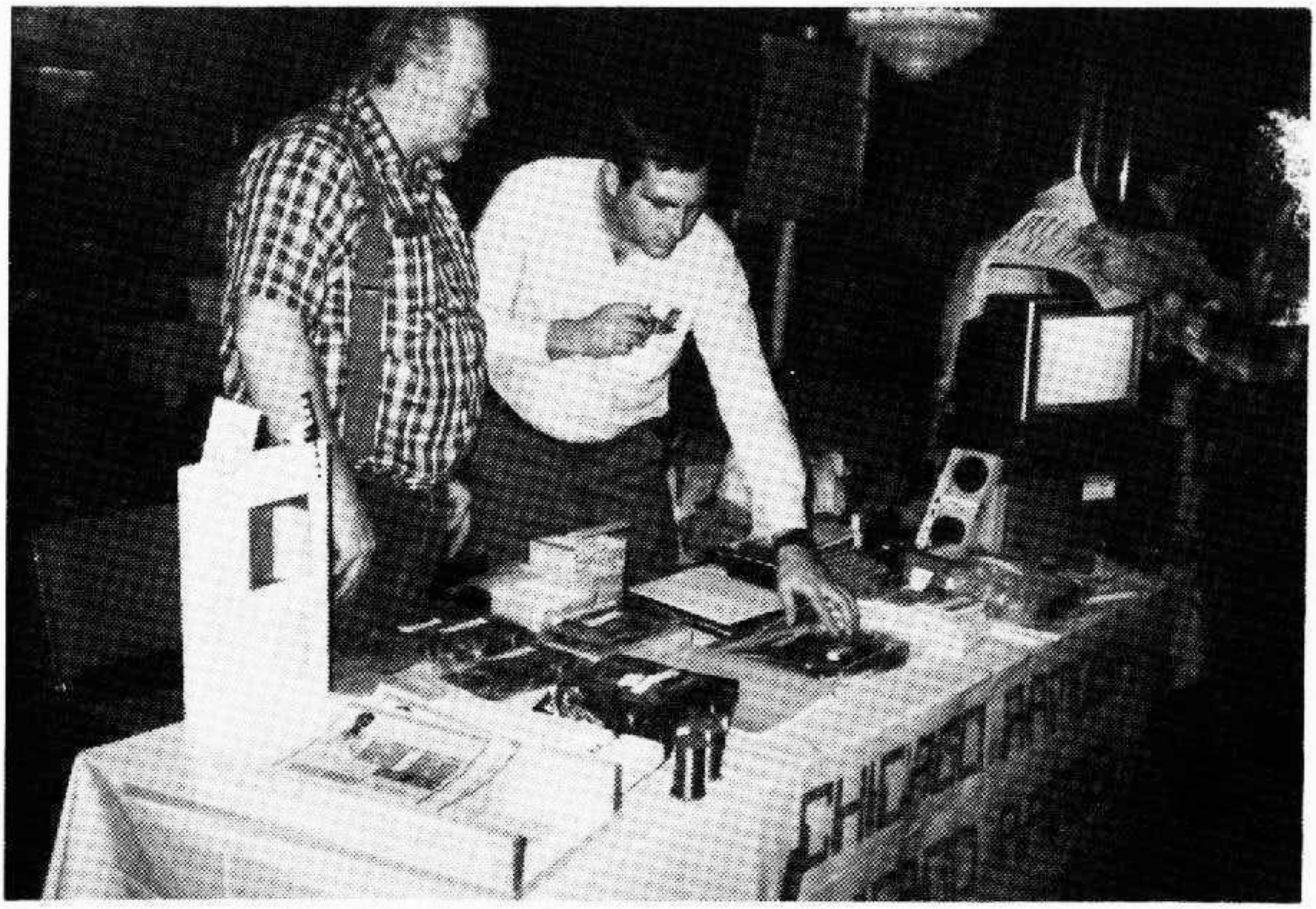
Nov 1989
EDITOR: Bob Demeter



## ENJOY A FAIRE WEEKEND

### 7TH ANNUAL FAIRE NOV. 4, 1989

This month's meeting will be our 7th annual TI Faire. It will take place at the Holiday Inn, Rolling Meadows. 9a-5p.

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CALL THE BBS AT 312 862-0182 Area code 708 starting Nov 11th
HOT LINE # 312 869-4304 Area code 708 starting Nov. 11th

# McCann Software proudly announces:

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This program is specifically designed for Geneve 9640 Users! Use The Printer's Apprentice, TPA, for all of your desktop publishing needs. Need a flyer? Use TPA. Need a newsletter? Use TPA. TPA HANDLES TEXT, GRAPHICS, OR BOTH EASILY! Use as many fonts as you want. Use as many pictures as you want. Use the fonts included, other TPA fonts, most that can be converted to TI-Artist format. Pictures can come from other TPA fonts disks or from any that can be converted to TI-Artist picture (_P) or instance (_I) format. TALK ABOUT COMPATIBILITY WITH A WIDE VARIETY OF AVAILABLE RESOURCES!

## Text

- Easy columnization.
- Easy to move text around.
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- Easy to correct errors.

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## Output

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BIG PAGE=2 PAGES QUAD DENS!

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Convertible non-TPA fonts are:
TI-Artist and CHARA1 files

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Use TPA or TI-Artist Pics
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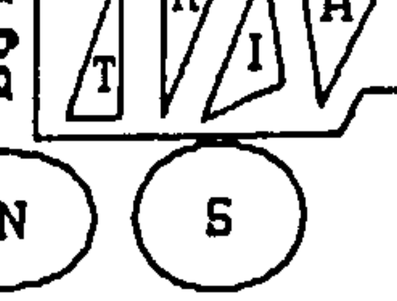
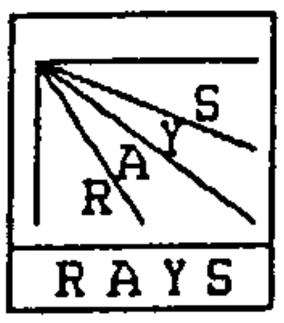
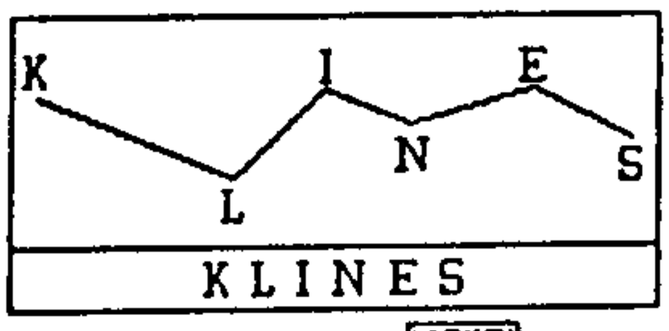



Use all of pic or just what you need!

## Other:

Program 100% memory resident!
WYSIWYG
Jotter- Built-in Text Editor
**Easy**
Just type TPA from MDOS and go
**FUN!**
If it's not fun, why do it?




ROTATE ROTATE ROTATE ROTATE

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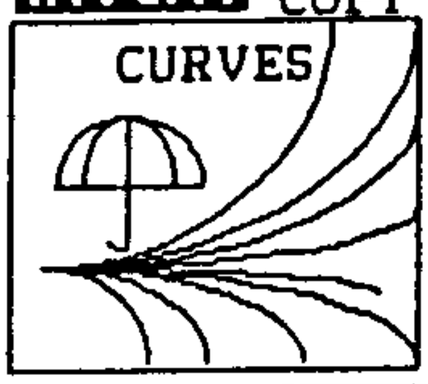
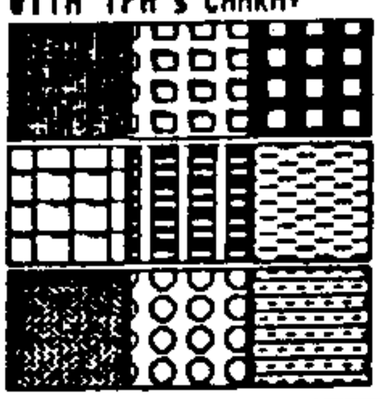
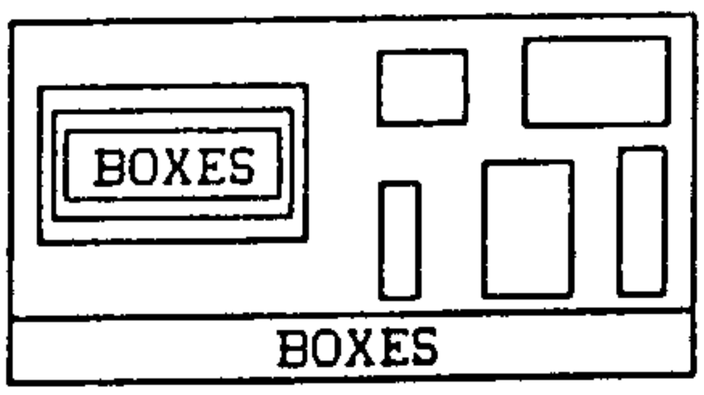
THESE ARE SOME OF THE 64 FILL PATTERNS THAT ARE AVAILABLE WITH TPA's CHARA+

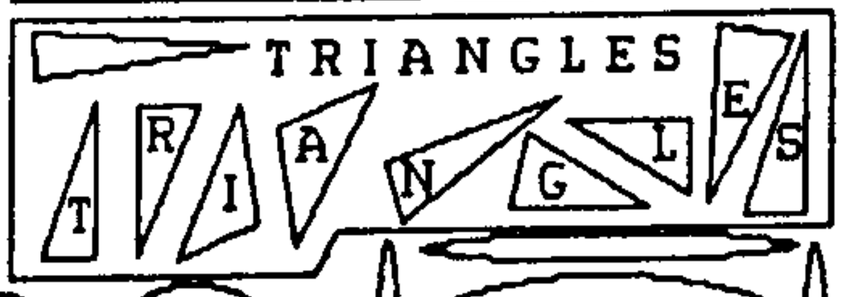





MAGNIFY for fine detail items such as intricate outlining.

Page creation software takes a whole new turn with McCann Software's introduction of The Printer's Apprentice for MDOS on the Geneve 9640.



This page was produced in its entirety using The Printer's Apprentice!
Required: Geneve 9640, MDOS 1.14, Epson or Gemini-10X Dot Matrix Printer

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Omaha, NE 68139

Shipped upon receipt of your check or money order.

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| | |
|---|---|
| TI-Forth for MDOS | $15.00 |
| The Geometer's Apprentice(TGA) | $39.95 |
| The Printer's Apprentice(TPA) | $22.50 |
| TPA Toolbox | $22.50 |
| TPA Fonts Disk I | $11.50 |
| TPA Fonts Disk II | $11.50 |
| Business Graphs 99 | $15.95 |

tpa

# Where it's at this month..


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## MEETING DATES

We will be moving our meetings to a new place in Jan. More details will follow, next month.
Executive board meets from 11 to 1. The regular meeting is from 1 to 3 pm. All are invited to attend.
- The November meeting is our ANNUAL FAIRE. 11/4/89
- The December meeting is Saturday 12/2/89 Swap Meet.

## Membership fee - $21.00

The Chicago Times is published 10 TImes a year from Sept. to June. Chicago TImes is in no way affiliated with Texas Instruments. We are supported solely by our subscribers and advertisers. Subscriptions are free with membership to the Chicago TI 99/4A User's Group. The Chicago TImes is also distributed free to any User's Group that wishes to reciprocate. Articles within these pages may be re-printed by other User's Group Publications provided credit is given the Chicago Times as the original source of the article. Comments and letters are welcome. We also accept submissions

# An Alphabetical List of Vendors

Asgard: Software for the TI-99/4A Home Computer and the Geneve 9640 Home Computer. Some of the programs sold are PRESS, Batch-It, Beyond Video Chess, Page Pro 99, Legends, Legends II, Oliver's Twist, Karate Challenge, Calendar Maker 99, Hard Master, and many more fine programs.

Bowser, Gary: A hardware upgrade for the Horizon RAM Disk called RAMBO will be offered at this Faire. Also available will be a super cartridge expander for the 4A. A new music card may also be available.

Bud Mills Services: Hardware for the TI-99/4A Home Computer and the Geneve 9640 Home Computer. Items offered include the Horizon RAM Disk, the p-GRAM Card, and a new memory expansion card for the Geneve computer.

C & G Drives: Floppy disk drives.

CADD Electronics: Makers of the Gramulator.

CBUG: Computer related supplies including, disks, disk storage cases, surge protectors, paper, and general computer supplies, and more.

Chicago TI 99/4A Users' Group: Tee shirts, commemorative CTIUG mechanical pencils, hardware manuals, >TI Writer Supplementary Manuals<, TI-99/4A replacement keys, muffin fans, switching power supplies, Chicago TImes newsletter back issues, souvenirs, and much more.

Colonial Software (Robert Guellanitz, prop.): Public Domain software.

Competition Computer Products: Software and hardware for the TI-99/4A Home Computer and the Geneve 9640 Home Computer. Their stock includes printers and 4A cartridges.

Comprodine Software: Software for the TI-99/4A Home Computer. This includes, Formshop, Artist Printshop, Jiffy Card, a new game called Living Tomb, and several other programs.

Compuserve: A modem accessed information service.

Data Systems: MS-DOS software.

Fox Valley Users' Group: Software for the TI-99/4A Home Computer.

Genial TRAVelER Diskazine: A software based publication which contains programs, routines, and articles, all on floppy disks.

Genie: A modem accessed information service.

H & H Computer Supplies (formerly B & D Computer Supplies): Disks, paper, accessories, and general computer supplies.

Harrison Software: Music software on floppy disks.

Hunter Electronics: Software and hardware for the TI-99/4A Home Computer and the Geneve 9640 Home Computer. Stocks include floppy drives, hard drives, monitors, cables, and more.

Illinois Micro: Printers, 3 1/2 and 5 1/4 inch disk drives, hard drives, surge protectors, printers, modems, monitors, etc.

J.P. Software (formerly Genial Computerware): Software for the TI-99/4A Home Computer and the Myarc Geneve 9640 Home Computer. Some of their programs include PC Transfer, GENPROG, Hypercopy, Picture Transfer, and many more fine programs.

L.L. Conner Enterprises: Software and hardware for the TI-99/4A Home Computer and the Geneve 9640 Home Computer.

MICROpendium Magazine: The most important publication in the 4A/9640 community.

Midwest Engineering: The Midwest RAM Card and chips.

Miller, Barry: A new publication devoted entirely to the Myarc Geneve 9640 Home Computer.

Milwaukee Users' Group/Wisconsin TI Council: The Milwaukee Users' Group will be selling raffle tickets and admission tickets to their Faire for November 5. They will also be selling TI/9640 software.

Myarc, Inc.: Myarc is the maker of the Myarc Geneve 9640 Home Computer, the Myarc Hard/Floppy Disk Controller Card, the Myarc floppy disk controller card, RS232 card, and memory/RAM card.

RAVE 99: RAVE 99 is the producer of ibm type keyboards, a new memory/RAM card, and a speech synthesizer card for the peripheral expansion box.

Spirit of 99 Users Group: A users' group from St. Louis will be selling TI-99/4A software.

Texaments: Distributors of TI Artist, TI Artist Plus, TI Sort, TI Base, MICROdex, and other software for the TI-99/4A Home Computer and the Myarc Geneve 9640 Home Computer.

TI Users' Group of Will County: Software for the TI-99/4A Home Computer.

# FAIRE NOTES - - -

The seventh annual Chicago Area TI Faire will be held on November 4, 1989 at the Rolling Meadows Holiday Inn, at 3405 West Algonquin Road (Route 62), in Rolling Meadows, Illinois. The hours of the Faire will be 09:00 a.m. to 05:00 p.m. (though presentations will continue until 06:00 p.m.). The cost of admission to the Faire is $4.00, but members of The Chicago TI Users' Group will be admitted free. If you desire to make reservations for a room at the hotel, their telephone number is (312)259-5000; please be sure to mention our Faire if you call.

Our third annual "Friday Night Social Mixer" will take place on Friday, November 3, 1989 from 08:00 p.m. until midnight. It will be held at the Faire hotel facility. The cost of admission is $5.00. Hors d'oeuvres will be served, and there will be live music. There will also be a cash bar.

Our third annual "Saturday Night Dinner" will take place on Saturday, November 4, 1989. It too will be held at the Faire hotel facility, and it will take place from 07:00 p.m. to 09:30 p.m. The cost of tickets is $15.00; reservations are requested.

Dan Marini, of Italy, is expected to make a return visit here for our Faire; he intends to travel with a friend. This time, he would like to stay between 20 to 30 days in the Chicago area for the purpose of doing some intensive touring. He is therefore seeking a place to stay. If anyone knows of a cheap but good place for lodgings, please leave a message on the hot-line.

If you would like to donate the use of your equipment for the Faire, please leave a message to that effect on the hot-line. (At this time, television sets and/or monitors are the things which we most require.) If we are still in need of any more equipment, you will be contacted.

We still need the donation of the use of <u>one</u> color printer. A Star NX 1000 Rainbow would do fine, but a SR 1000 would work even better.

At the writing of this article, the Faire is completely sold out. No more tables are available for sale.

We have learned that a very fine programmer in our community, Mr. Barry Boone, will be present at our Faire as an attendee only, but he will be both a vendor and a presentor at the Milwaukee Faire. It is rumored that he has some fine new products for both the 4A and the 9640, which will be on sale in Milwaukee. The Milwaukee Faire will take place on Sunday, November 5, 1989, from 09:00 a.m. to 05:00 p.m. at the Quality Inn at 5311 Howell Avenue, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The cost of admission will be $2.00 ($1.00 if paid in advance). If you need information or help regarding the Milwaukee Faire, please call (414)481-2400.

Bud Mills has donated two item for this year's Faire. He has donated a p-GRAM Card for raffle during our Faire proper. He is donating this item in the memory of John Guion, the fine programmer/designer who created this card. For our "Friday Night Social Mixer," Bud has donated a bare

Horizon RAM disk board. (This is a wired board which needs only the addition of memory chips to make it functional.)

There will be a shuttle bus taking wives and daughters from the hotel to the Woodfield Shopping Center. Check at the front desk for the schedule of this bus.

There will be a "Kids Night Out" on both the Friday and Saturday nights of the Faire. This event will begin at about 07:00. It is essentially an event for the purpose of occupying any youngsters who are the children of attendees of the Faire. It will be adult supervised, and the young people will be treated to games and snacks. If you intend on bringing any kids, and if you haven't informed us, please leave a message on the group's bbs, or leave a message on the group's hot-line.

There is a shuttle bus from the hotel to and from O'Hare field. Check at the front desk for the schedule of this bus.

Only new equipment will be sold at our Faire. If you are desirous of buying and/or selling any used equipment, it should be brought to the December "Swap Fest" meeting. This meeting will be the last one to be held at the Broadview American Legion Hall, in Hillside, Illinois.

Vendors will begin closing down at 05:00 p.m., but speakers will continue to give presentations until 06:00 p.m.

We hope to have on display a TI-99/2, a TI-99/4, a TI-99/8, and a CC-40, with a hex-bus system interface. We feel that having them all together under the same roof would allow our attendees to see what we evolved from, and what we might have been, had things been different.

Back issues of our newsletters will be on sale, during our Faire, as will back issues of MICROpendium Magazine. Look for a special Faire sale price on all of the back issues of our newsletter.

If you are having a problem related to our Faire, or if you just need more information or directions, call the users' group's hot-line at (312)869-4304. We promise to get back to you if you leave your name and a telephone number.

# FAIRE SPEAKERS' SCHEDULE

So far here, is a schedule of the speakers who have committed themselves to making presentations:

09:30 Bud Mills will be demonstrating the Horizon RAM disk and the Horizon p-GRAM card. We also expect for Bud to demonstrate his new memory expansion card for the Myarc 9640 Geneve Home Computer.

10:00 Roger Merritt of Comprodine will be demonstrating a new program named Artist Printshop. This is a graphic utility which uses TI Artist fonts and instances. It generates banners, letterheads, signs, flyers, cards, etc. He will also be demostrating some unusual games; one is named Living Tomb. He will also be discussing a new version of a recent program named Jiffy Card. This new version also works with color printers.

10:30 Gary Bowser of Toronto, Ontario will demonstrate his Super Module Expander and, possibly, a new sound card for the 4A. Both of these products are expected to be available at the Faire. There is another software product which may be available and which therefore may also be demonstrated. He will also be demonstrating a "beta" version or prototype of his Z-80 interpreter card. With this card in PEB, the user will be able to use software written in the Z-80 and the CPM environments. It will also be able to play games written for the Adam Computer, Coleco Vision, and Ntendo. In addition to all of the above, Gary will demonstrate his hardware upgrade for the Horizon RAM Disk; the name for this upgrade is RAMBO.

11:30 The Asgard team, headed by Chris Bobbitt will be demonstrating much of the entire Asgard Company line. (Most of Asgards software will run on both the TI-99/4A and the Geneve 9640 Home Computer.) Press is also supposed to be shown at this time.

12:45 Bruce Harrison of Harrison will demonstrate his music software. This software was well reviewed in both MICROpendium Magazine and Computer Shopper for the quality and quantity of music on these disks.

01:00 Barry Traver, one of the writers of the "TI Forum" column in Computer Shopper and a TI SysOp on Compuserve, will give a general presentation. Some of the things which he will cover will include his disk based publication, Genial TRAVelER Diskazine and telecommunications. He will also speak on how a non-technical person without programming skills can combine assembly routines with Extended BASIC.

01:30 Jan Joel Janowski does a demonstration of his fully portable TI-99/4A and his MBP clock card.

02:30 Our own SysOp, Mike (a.k.a. "The Frogman," b.k.a. "Wetsuit Warrior," alias, "ROBOFROG") Maksimik will demonstrate his FDOS program environment. This is an original and new operating system for the 4A. He will also demonstrate his modification of a Kraft serial "mouse" so that it can be used with a 4A.

03:00 Jim Horn of the Mid Atlantic Ninety-Niners (MANNERS) will be speaking about a program to get unused and "closeted" systems out of the closet and either into use or into the hands of teachers and rehabilitation specialists and how this can be used as a means of expanding the 4A community.
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03:30 J. Peter Hoddie and Paul Charlton, of J.P. Software, will be demonstrating some new programs for the TI-99/4A and the Geneve 9640 Home Computer.

04:30 Myarc will demonstrate the 9640 Geneve Home Computer and the Myarc Hard Floppy Disk Controller Card (HFDC).

06:00 The 1989 Chicago Users' Group's TI Faire officially closes.

It is not expected for there to be many or any more changes in the above schedule, but should there be any, announcements will be made in the pages of this newsletter and on the users' group's bbs.

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## MEMBERSHIP NEWS AND VIEWS

by James Brooks

Greetings to all at the FAIRE. Now that the FAIRE is finally here, I look foreword to good time by all.

The renewal's are starting to come in now getting ready for a great year ahead. Whoever thought that the TI 99/4A (called TOY 99 by other computer owners) would still be going on due to the membership's of the USERS GROUPS. TI is not dead yet.

There is going to be s lot of NEW things going on at this years FAIRE (the Greatest, being #7) that will boggle your mind and joggle your checkbooks (so don't forget to bring it along with cash which is always good to have).

Now is the time to RENEW. Due to price increases in PRINTING and POSTAGE, RENEWALS WILL BE $18.00 FOR ALL MEMBERS THAT PAY IN PERSON, EITHER AT A MEETING OR AT THE FAIRE FROM SEPTEMBER 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31. AFTER JANUARY 1,1990, ALL RENEWALS WILL BE $21 WHETHER IN PERSON OR BY "SNAIL", OOPS, I MEANT MAIL.

Well that about does it for this month due to so much to do for the FAIRE, there has not been much going on. The last two meetings have been well attended at the American Legion Hall in Hillside but we will be moving after January to another location. (I think that most of us really miss TRITON COLLEGE but that is another story) We are doing our bit at the meeting in making donations to pay for the Hall each month and the Executive Board and I all say THANK YOU. More about the new meeting place when it is decided upon.

P.S.We expect some fine things at this Great Faire!

# GENEVE SUPPORT ARTICLE. . .

Howdy doody there, sports fan! Well, old Krome Dome Jonz is back with a lot more STUFF for our grand friend Genny.

Looks like I'm doing a lot of discussion of software lately, doesn't it? Well, I guess that I'm just trying to get you (and be both) ready for this year's Faire. Yes, this is the month of our yearly, all TI Faire! What joy it is to get a lot of nice goodies for our Genny and then return home to play with them! **OH, RARE!!!**

Let's start out this article with our newest installment for the AUTOEXEC file that we are building. Let's first look at what we have so far:

```
TI MODE
RAMDISK 120
LASTDRIVE = L
ASSIGN E=DSK5:
ASSIGN F=DSK6:
ASSIGN G=hdS1:
VER
TIME
DATE
PROMPT $D$B$T$_$N$G
```

Well, sports fans, it is getting longer and more interesting. Now, let's do something that will give us some dramatic results. Add the following commands in after the "RAMDISK 120" command:

```
MODE F2
MODE B11
```

What will these two simple commands do? The first will change the foreground (character) color of your DOS mode screen to black. The second will change the background (screen) color to dark yellow. I think that these commands are pretty clear to understand. After the MODE command, just enter the number from 1 to 16 that you would like for the screen or character colors to be. Precede the number with "B" for background or "F" for foreground. Besides being internal commands (commands which can be used in an AUTOEXEC or batch file), they can also be used as external commands (commands which can be used outside of a batch file or AUTOEXEC file, in the command mode of M-DOS).

I have been told that Myarc is now modifying its memory/RAM cards so that they can be used with your Genny. Therefore, if you have a 512K Myarc memory/RAM card, it can be modified so that it can be used with your Genny. Using it with your Genny, you Genny then has a full meg. of addressable, programmable memory!!! FINALLY!!! (I might also mention that Bud Mills of Bud Mills Services is now offering for sale a memory expansion card for the Genny. More on that when I learn something about it.) I guess that Genny has all of a sudden become a very serious and powerful machine! Now that having more memory is possible, let's put in a command that is presently not supported, due to memory limitations:

SPOOL 80

I would add this command in just after the "RAMDISK" size command. A 60K print spooler will allow you to have a very decently sized text file spooling to your printer while you can continue to type away in the edit mode. In addition to adding the "SPOOL" command, with the additional memory of a 512K Myarc memory/RAM card, you can enlarge the size of your RAM disk. Why not then change the RAM disk size command so that it reads, "RAMDISK 240." A 240K built in RAM disk will give you a RAM disk with 960 sectors, exactly double what you will get by using the recommended 120K size!!! (I am using 240 as an arbitrary number as I don't know exactly how large a RAM disk is available to the user with a modified Myarc memory/RAM card.) Very nice, if I say so myself!!! Enough of our AUTOEXEC file for this month. More on this next month.

Last month, I was discussing some of the creations from Genial Computerware. I would like to continue my discussion this month with mention of a program that I have discussed in the past. I am speaking about John Johnson's Remind Me! This is a truly excellent program. It has the dubious distinction of being the first piece of commercial software that I purchased to run on my Genny, and I keep it on my beloved HRD. (I believe that this program was recently released to the "public domaint or is now "fair ware." It therefore may not be available from Genial Computerware as commercial software.) This program is one of the many utility programs that make our Genny a serious tool and not just a mere game machine.

Remind Me! makes your Genny into a desk calendar or an appointment calendar. As it accesses the 9640's built in clock, when booted, it comes up with the calendar for this month and this year, and the cursor is automatically on the correct day. The day's date is also indicated in the lower part of the screen, but as you move the cursor, the date at the lower part of the screen changes. (Here is my only small complaint: I personally would have preferred to have the current day's date remain the constant date on the screen. As I move the cursor, I can easily read the date where the cursor has been placed, but I can easily forget today's day and date when I am playing around placing notations on other days of the month. This is a small complaint and probably one that not everyone can or will share. I might also mention that though I have never run REMIND ME! off of my hard drive, I have heard that some other users have experienced an incompatibility here. I don't know what the problem is, but I just want to aprise my readers of the complaint.) When run on a Genny, it also constantly shows the time in hours, minutes, and seconds. I love this program, and I use it virtually every day. For me, this program was well worth its original $15.00 commercial, selling price, but now there is something to make it even sexier:

John Johnson has recently released a small 4 sector "Free Ware" program called Reminders. This program must be used in conjuction with his program, Remind Me!, and, as it runs out of M-DOS, it can only be used on a Genny. When this program is placed on a logical or physical disk drive, and when the proper AUTOEXEC file command is present, it will search the indicated device, and if there are any reminders for the day, which were created by the program Remind Me!, it will flash them on the

screen when you boot your DOS and AUTOEXEC. If you prefer, it can be placed in a batch file, or it can be used as an external command.

I just can't resist returning back to our AUTOEXEC file, in order to show how this program can be used. Let's look at what my AUTOEXEC file looks like with internal commands for running Reminders:

```
TI MODE
RAMDISK 240
SPOOL 160
MODE F2
MODE B11
LASTDRIVE = L
ASSIGN E=DSK5:
ASSIGN F=DSK6:
ASSIGN G=hdS1:
VER
TIME
DATE
PROMPT $D$B$T$_$N$G
F:REMINDERS F:
PAUSE
F:REMINDERS F:/s
```

Our baby AUTOEXEC file is really growing! Let's translate the last three lines: "F:REMINDERS F:" runs the program named "Reminders" on logical (RAM disk) drive number 6 ("F"). I have then inserted a pause so that I will have the time to read the reminders, if there are any. The last line is a command to read my monthly reminders for this month, if there are any. Using this program with these commands, I am now able to have Genny remind me of what I need to do on that particular day. (Thank you, Big Bob Demeter for introducing me to this program and for getting it to me!) Now, I really will leave our AUTOEXEC file alone until next month.

There are quite a few other programs that Genial Computerware has put out that will run on a Genny, but, with the exception of one, I have no experience with the others. Firstbase has been tested out and reviewed by our data base expert, my friend, Oscar Bretana. He really likes this program a lot, and he feels that it is a very powerful program. Triad, a multifunction terminal emulator program was demonstrated at one of our meetings by our SysOp, Mike ("The Frogman") Maksimik. He really likes this program a great deal. I have had no experience with any of these programs, but there is one last program, which I also bought at the last Faire. I am speaking about Mike Dodd's Hypercopy.

Hypercopy is a very fine program that catalogs, formats, and copies disks, on a 9640 computer only, very, very quickly. It is a very wonderful copy program. It has a lot of bells and whistles which, when properly used, will cause the program to copy or format even more quickly. (I am talking about the ability to change the "skew" and the "interlace" of a disk.) I have only one complaint about this program: I have found it to be somewhat "finicky." By this, I mean I have seldom been able to get the first menu option (to copy a single disk to a single disk) to work. I have usually ended up using the second option (which is

to copy a single disk to a series of disks). The second option works flawlessly, and I should know. A few months ago, I had to copy both sides of 135 "flippy" disks, in order to fulfill a long standing committment to many of our members. This option must have worked well, because not one of those disks has been returned to me for being non-functional, and only three of the 135 disks, which I attempted to copy to, were found to be defective. It was very fast and a real life saver. Using my Genny, exclusively now, I really miss programs like Turbocopy (I have recently learned that there is a bug in Turbocopy), Quick Copy, REDISKIT, MCOPY, etc, but Hypercopy well takes their place on a Genny. I therefore feel that it is well worth the $20.00 which is being charged for it. The problems which I have experienced above may not exist when using the version for either the Myarc or CorComp FDCs. Once I get version 1.15H of M-DOS, I will be able to use my HFDC for controlling my disks, and then I will be able to check out the Myarc version of this program. Until then, I might also mention another copy program by a different programmer. I am speaking about Not My Copy, by Jim Schroeder.

Jim is one of the most intelligent and innovative programmers in the Genny community. His Not My Copy does not have all of the "bells and whistles of Hypercopy, but it does what it is supposed to do, and it does it well. There is nothing finicky about this program; it works all of the time. It is also cheaper; Jim is asking $10.00 for it, whereas Hypercopy is selling for $20.00. Also, Hypercopy runs out of M-DOS, but Not My Copy runs out of E/A #5. Hypercopy allows you to choose the source and data drive numbers while Not My Copy uses disk drive #1 for you source drive and disk drive #2 for your data drive, and I don't think that this can be changed. Both come with versions for the Myarc, TI, and CorComp disk controller cards. Finally, both are fast in their executions. Relative to this, I did a timing comparison. Hypercopy was able to format and copy a disk in 41 seconds, according to my timing. Not My Copy was able to copy the same disk in 88 seconds. Both are good programs. The choice remains with the buyer.

In addition to Not My Copy, Jim has created some other rather important programs for the Genny. One is the program HDROS (and its E/A, option #3 loader program LHDROS). This program is essential to the user of the Horizon RAM Disk (HRD) who wants to run it with a Genny. Without this program, you are unable to use your HRD with your Genny UNLESS you purchase and use J. Peter Hoddie's special E-PROM (which is sold and distributed by Genial Computerware). Jim's HDROS allows your HRD to be seen by your Genny. Without it, a HRD is totally transparent to your Genny. Using this program, I am able to boot my SYSTEM/SYS (DOS) from my 256K HRD in about 4 seconds. Because of HDROS, my HRD is seen before any other storage device is. I have configured my system is such a way that if I remove my HRD from my PEB, my SYSTEM/SYS file will be then found on my hard drive. If I turn off my hard drive, my system will then expect to find my DOS in my first physical drive.

The above mentioned versions of HDROS and LHDROS run out of the GPL environment and are loaded in E/A, option #3. Jim has more recently done another version that runs out of DOS. This version checks to see exactly what HRD's you have in your system. It determines how much memory they

have. It then initializes them and can copy SYSTEM/SYS to one. This second version is the only one which can be used to format the new 16 bit HRD's which use the 32K chips. The older EA #3 version will not work with the newer boards.

Another important short program which will format a HRD, but will not copy your DOS onto it is his CFG (short for CONFIGURE) program. It can be used with either the older or the newer HRD's. It merely determines the number of chips which you have on your HRD and configures it. (When attempting to help a member of our club get his newer HRD going, I found that it was necessary for me to remove my older 8 bit 256K HRD from my PEB while I was formatting his newer one. Please be aware that if you have more than one HRD, it may be necessary to format them with only one in your box at a time. Once they are formatted, they definitely can be used together.)

One important, additional point regarding the new versions of LHDROS and HDROS: The MDOS version of these programs will both format/configure your 16 bit HRD and simultaneously copy your MDOS SYSTEM/SYS file to your HRD. Using this program for this proceedure, you can then boot your system from a 16 bit HRD, but you will be limited in the number of sectors which you have available. Also if you choose to boot from a 16 bit HRD, you must copy and leave the HDROS file on your HRD. Now, if you want to utilize all of the memory available on your HRD, you cannot use it for booting your system, and you must initialize/configure it using the file CFG,instead of LHDROS. Both options are available to the user, but the choice is also up to the user. The user must decide which option he/she wishes to take advantage of, and which loss he/she is willing to accept.

Another fine program, which is related to the HRD, that Jim has done is his short program RAMDOS. This program is necessary to use the newer HRD's which use the 32K 16 bit chips. The system is initially set to see only an 8 bit board using 8K chips. RAMDOS toggles your system so that it will see a 16 bit board. It is only 4 sectors long, and it needs to be placed on any 16 bit HRD that you may use. If you own only a newer 16 bit HRD, you need to add the command "RAMDOS" to your AUTOEXEC file. (It must be entered after the prompt where the file can be found. For example, if this file is on a disk in drive "A", then you need only put the file name into your AUTOEXEC file. If it is on a disk in drive "B", you then need to show the command as follows: "B:RAMDOS". In this way, your Genny will search for it in drive "B". Should you have both an 8 bit and a 16 bit HRD in your PEB, you can run RAMDOS with an external command.

Somewhat related to RAMDOS is a "Freeware" GPL menu program which Jim has written. It is actually a modification of John Johnson's great menu program. It comes in two files: GPO and GPP. These files replace the original files of your GPL environment program, and when GPL is booted and run, you will automatically have a very sexy menu program. I said that this program is somewhat related to RAMDOS only because by pressing FCTN 4, you will toggle between an 8 bit and a 16 bit HRD system while you are in GPL!!! Very nice if you have a 16 bit HRD.

Closely related to Jim's menu is a GPL "cartridge" modification which Jim has created. This GPL "cartridge" is a combination of both Extended BASIC and Editor Assembler! What a nice convenience it is to be able to have both of these environments resident in the same GPL "cartridge" space. Having them loaded into Jim's menu program, you can toggle between the two, but one warning: I have found that some programs will not run from this combination "cartridge." Stu Olsen's Mass Transfer is one of those, but it will run if I load into an unmodified E/A file. At the same time, I have found that some other programs will not run properly when they are loaded from a modified, GPL that also contains a menu. Munchman is an example of this, but when I load Munchman into an unmodified GPL, I have no problem. I might also mention that this modified "cartridge" is a "Freeware" gift to the Genny portion of the TI community.

Also written by Jim is the first terminal emulator program to run out of M-DOS, Not My Term(inal). This program is presently a shell to which Jim expects to be adding more and more features. I have used it with good results. It doesn't have a lot of the "bells and whistles" of a fine program like TELCO, but it works very well. This is a "Fairware" program for which Jim is asking $10.00. I believe that those who pay for the program now will not be asked to pay again for later updated versions.

From the size of this file, I can see that I had better sign off before Big Bob throws me off the page. I am looking forward to seeing all of you at this month's Faire. Until then,

SEE YOU AT THE FAIRE, SPORTS FANS!!!
enditenditenditenditenditenditenditenditenditenditenditenditenditenditenditendit

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## TRADIN' TIMES

Randy Davenport has a system for sale. It includes the following: a.) TI-99/4A console, b.) speech synthesizer, c.) P.E.B., 1 full height SS/SD disk drive, d.) 1 TI FDC, e.) 1 TI 32K memory card, f.) numerous cartridges with original manuals. He will take the BEST OFFER. He prefers to sell as a complete package, but he will separate parts if necessary. His address is 1823 East Calver Street, South Bend, Indiana 46613. His phone number is (219)232-1873. Call this man and make him an offer!!!

Al ("The Magnificent Stumper") Stump still has one 256K Horizon RAM disk left. He is asking $180.00 for it. If you are interested in it, please leave a message regarding it on the group's hot-line. Al will get back to you.

Don Jones is looking for a MBX voice recognition expansion system. If you have one or know of one for sale, please leave a message on the group's hot-line.

## Spadventure #10: Armistice Day
by Dave Wakely

The news came late last night. For a few weeks now we've been sitting around the barracks, watching the dismal fall weather and waiting for the drizzle to let up. Then the field phones came to life and an excited voice told us that a cease-fire agreement had been signed. We all went slightly crazy. Word was that at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918 that all fighting was to stop. The German advance had collapsed and troops were defecting. We had beaten the "Central Powers" of Germany, Austria-Hungary, Turkey, etc. and soon we would all be going home. It's almost over.

This moment of history will never come again, and it's time to be a part of it. For this final installment, after a breakfast to clear the cobwebs of last night's hangover, wander over to your waiting Spad XIII and taxi, using the technique we learned earlier, to the north end of the runway. In the morning, orders came down that all pilots should stay on the ground, but the heck with that, by now you are both a survivor and an expert aviator. Without stopping, swing the nose of the plane around and take off straight South. Head up to just 500 feet, you won't be able to see much if you are too high up. When you have this altitude, level off by backing down to 800 RPM.

Now begin a very mild left bank to eventually head SSE (the first position "east" of straight south on the compass). Our first goal is to fly right over the village of Sezanne and to see how they are reacting to the news. Once you are on the right heading, keep your altitude at 500, there's no danger today, the German planes are all on the ground. Read on as you fly.

Strange how in June of 1918 the Allies were doubtful of being able to breach the German trench system before 1919. But in July and August, after a German thrust early in the year had pushed to within 30 miles of Paris, we drove the Germans back across part of their main defense lines and on September 26 back as far as the Antwerp-Metz railway line, an essential supply link. Over 400,000 German troops were captured during the final offensive.

Of course, we played some role in that. Once enough American pilots had arrived in France, in March 1918 the 94th Aero Pursuit Squadron was formed. This unit is mentioned on page 14 of the manual. Both the 94th and the 95th squadrons were composed entirely of Americans, and were based at Villeneuve, about 15 miles behind the lines. Now you know where the simulator's "French field" really is, maybe. During the German spring offensive, the American airfield was moved to Epiez, and later to Toul. I've never figured out which one it is in the simulator. Searching for an insignia, however, the Americans came across the idea of "tossing your hat in the ring" as an invitation to fight. Thus, the 94th became known as the "Hat-in-the-Ring" Squadron. All the planes had an "Uncle Sam" stovepipe hat inside a ring emblazoned on the side of each plane. Or hadn't you noticed that?

By now you may be able to spot Sezanne on the horizon. Like the other

villages, it will first appear as a line on the ground, gradually growing in definition as you get closer. Get it centered on the screen and fly directly over it. It sure looks quiet down there, but just maybe you can hear, above the roar of the engine, the sound of the church bell ringing out the news that peace is about to break out.

Continue on this course, same direction and altitude. It's on to Troyes, a town reportedly destroyed in the fighting. Check your map and you'll see we should be heading directly towards it. It's a touch further from here to Troyes than it was from the field to here. In the meantime, consider that the 94th was made up of some odd characters. Since no Americans had any combat experience, the early members of the 94th were drawn from the ranks of volunteers who had fought with the French early in the war, usually with the famous Lafayette Escadrille. This air squadron mostly flew a slow and heavy plane known as the Nieuport. This was also the first plane used by the Americans; Spads weren't put into service until July of 1918.

One of those early American aviators was a Captain Jimmy Hall, who was reported to have had as much skill and daring as Eddie Rickenbacker. He had the misfortune to be shot down that spring, and it wasn't until it was over that it was learned he had suffered only a broken ankle. He was cared for during the remainder of the war in a reasonably comfortable German hospital. He had also been an author, and afterwards he went on to write "Mutiny on the Bounty", which has been made into a film several different times.

Despite their romantic image and press, many of the pilots during the war didn't make it back. Even the dreaded Red Baron, Manfred Von Richthofen, flying the Fokker DR-1 triplane used in the simulator, was shot down trying for his 81st victim, although strangely enough he achieved most of his victories in the little Albatross plane used for "observation" in the simulator.

Off your left wing you may be able to make out the trenches now, but we still have a ways to go. If you glance over you will note that it is quiet over there, as the word spreads that the fighting will soon stop. No one wants to get shot in the last minutes of a war.

For much of the counter offensive of the summer of 1918, Eddie Rickenbacker was out of action. He had developed an inner ear infection which put him in the hospital. He didn't even get up in the air for almost three months. Due to some earlier action, as well a few German planes he shot down when he got back into the fight, he became the American "Ace of Aces", but not for long. The flyer pictured on the inside cover of the manual, Frank Luke, took over the title early in the fall. Often called the most daring aviator of the war, he went on a rampage as part of the 95th Squadron and shot down fourteen enemy aircraft in eight days.

On his last flight he burned up three German balloons and was straffing a gun emplacement when a bullet hit him in the chest. He bounced the plane down in a clearing behind the lines. It was later learned that he had crawled out of the plane, a .45 automatic in hand, and waited for the

Germans to come. A platoon of infantry arrived, surrounded him and called on him to surrender. Luke could have spent the rest of the war in comparative comfort. Instead he emptied his he was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor posthumously, the first flier to win the nation's highest award. After his death Rickenbacker again became the American Ace of Aces.

He also became commander of the 94th Squadron, and began flying six or seven hours every day, weather permitting. In all he logged 134 air battles, many of them as a "lone wolf". In contrast to the Americans' propensity to fly out on missions alone, the Germans almost always went up in tight packs. One of the worst sights for an American pilot was to look back and see a small squad of Fokkers (this is not a misprint, that was the name of the plane) on his tail. Especially if he also saw that those planes all had noses painted red. This was the dreaded Von Richtofen Flying Circus (now you know where Monty Python got the last part of their name), active even after the Baron himself was shot down. They were the crack troops of the air, most of whose pilots had already earned the German Iron Cross. On several occasions Rickenbacker inspected his plane after air battles and found holes all around the cockpit. To survive took luck as well as skill.

The map in the manual appears to show Troyes just on the German side of the trenches. In fact, it is IN the trenches. That's it just ahead, just inside a slight bend in the opposing lines. Rising directly up from the rubble are some trails of wispy smoke from fires still burning. Continue directly over the village, observing the devastation. Look straight down at it as you pass over, then behind you as you pass it. Once it is receeding, begin a sharp left bank, so that you are heading straight north, right down the middle of the trenches.

Troyes was nothing. There will be a lot of destruction to count up when the fighting stops. In 1918 alone, the Germans took away hundreds of thousands of cows, sheep, goats and horses from occupied France. They left behind over 300 million yards of barbed wire to be pulled up, and 265 million cubic yards of trenches to be filled in. Seventy years later there are sections of France and Belgium where you can still see depressions in the ground from those trenches. In retreating, the Germans flooded over 1,000 miles of underground mine workings, blew in 112 mineshafts and destroyed 1,000 miles of railway line, 1,000 bridges, 600 stations, and 24 tunnels. Over 280,000 houses, 500 schools and 500 churches were destroyed. All churches were stripped of brass and copper for the German war economy.

Even people were treated as commodities. While the men were off at war, in many occupied villages the women and girls were deported to Germany for forced labor during 1917. In some areas, what had been beautiful countryside was completely laid waste and abandoned. Maybe that's why the landscape is so barren in the simulator. All armies damage civilian properties as they advance, or destroy bridges and railway lines as they retreat. Vandalism is not confined to any one nation. When the British General Lord Kitchener was told of a particular atrocity he exclaimed, "What is the good of discussing that incident? All war is an outrage!"

As you fly north up the trenches, you can choose to see the landscape all around as ravaged by war. Of course, the human toll was even more appalling. In all, the Central Powers totalled 3,500,000 dead, with Turkey losing 325,000, Austria-Hungary 1,290,000, Germany 1,800,000, among others. The Allies lost 5,200,000 (yes, we won but more of our people died than theirs), with the British Empire losing 947,000, Russia (on our side back then) losing 1,700,000 and France 1,400,000. The United States counted 116,000 casualties, owing to having entered the war in the spring of 1918. Some of the figures, especially for Russia and Turkey, are only estimates. When civilian population totals are added, it has been estimated that a little over 10,000,000 died in "The War to End all Wars"...

For a computer newsletter, this has been a strange series, especially for those who don't have Spad XIII! For those who do, the point has been that our imaginations "fill in the blanks" in any simulation program. These "guided trips" have come from my own play and exploration with Spad XIII, and you certainly can come up with some which are no doubt more interesting to you. The computer is an interactive instrument, nothing more. It so happens that occasionally it can interact with our creative minds. Enjoy.

In the back of my mind I have a few ideas for some other things to do with the series, including adding a few and publishing them in booklet form. Meanwhile, what was it like to be there when it "really" happened? I have obviously done some research in this series, using several different books. One of the most helpful was the autobiography of Eddie Rickenbacker (very readable and highly recommended). For his exploits he was awarded his own Congressional Medal of Honor in 1930. I'll let him close out the series and, as luck would have it, as we fly we are already in his position:

"It was a muggy, foggy day. About 10:00 I sauntered out to the hangar and casually told my mechanics to take the plane out on the line and warm it up to test the engines. Without announcing my plans to anyone, I climbed into the plane and took off. Under the low ceiling I hedgehopped towards the front. I arrived over Verdun at 10:45 and proceeded on toward Conflans, flying over no-man's land. I was at less than 500 feet. I could see both Germans and Americans crouching in their trenches, peering over with every intention of killing any man who revealed himself on the other side. From time to time ahead of me on the German side I saw a burst of flame, and I knew that they were firing at me. Back at the field later I found bullet holes in my ship.

I glanced at my watch. One minute to 11:00, thirty seconds, fifteen. And then it was 11:00 AM...I was the only audience for the greatest show ever presented. On both sides of no-man's-land, the trenches erupted. Brown uniformed men poured out of the American trenches, gray-green uniforms out of the German. From my observer's seat overhead, I watched them throw their helmets in the air, discard their guns, wave their hands. Then all up and down the front, the two groups of men began edging toward each other across no-man's-land. Seconds before they had been willing to shoot each other; now they came forward. Hesitantly at first, then more quickly, each group approached the other.

Suddenly, gray uniforms mixed with brown. I could see them hugging each other, dancing, jumping. Americans were passing out cigarettes and chocolate. I flew up to the French sector. There it was even more incredible. After four years of slaughter and hatred, they were not only hugging each other, but kissing each other on both cheeks as well.

Star shells, rockets and flares began to go up, and I turned my ship toward the field. The war was over."

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FOUR-A/TALK

Random ramblings
about things TI.

by Bill Gaskill

October 1989

ANNIVERSARY MONTH

WHAT'S HOT:

GRAPHIC EDITOR, HARDMASTER sector editing utility for Myarc HFDC.

MILESTONES:

-Did you notice that Julian Achim (DATAX) advertised an entire 99/4A system for sale in the July '89 MICROpendium? Looks like he has given up on the 99/4A. Though DATAX has really been focusing on the IBM market for about three years now, it's never comforting to see any former 99/4A supporter leave the market. I hope that he and his company are doing well competing in the IBM rat race.

GRAPHIC EDITOR:

Rejean Felton has released Version 3.0 of Graphic Editor (GE), which is a program that allows one to edit graphic designs that are in Dave Rose's CSGD format. I have never seen versions 1 or 2 of this program and up to now, had never heard of Rejean Felton. Shame on me. This person has some obvious talent and the GE program is quite simply a superb piece of software. It is NOT a clone of Steven J. McWatty's Graphic Labeler program although it provides similar functions. Graphics Editor is a piece of programming art that stands on its own.

GE is written in assembler and it runs on both the 99/4A and Geneve. It provides boot tracking (except when the Myarc controller card is used) for the drive that it was loaded from and thus like FunnelWeb, allows you to run the program from any disk without it always going to DSK1 for

segments of the program. Although GE can be booted from a hard drive, the author does not recommend it for a variety of reasons.

The real power of the program is its ability to edit CSGD graphics files. GE employs an editing technique similar to Picasso's in that the detail for the graphic is broken down into a 16 X 16 character grid. Each grid represents about 1/16th of the entire design. While in the edit mode, the program displays the whole graphic in the lower right corner of the screen so that you can see the immediate impact of your editing on the end product. You may use either a joystick or the keyboard to move the cursor around during editing.

Other strong features of Graphic Editor are things like a Smart Catalog that reads the contents of the disk specified and then it loads the file for you, control over your printer for double strike and double wide codes, dots per line, lines per inch and more, on-screen help at the touch of a key, the ability to do graphic labels and mailing labels and much more. What a professional piece of software!

Graphic Editor is a User Supported Software application (Fairware) that may be obtained for $15 Canadian (about $12 American I think) from;

Rejean Felton
8387 Levrard
St. Leonard, Quebec
Canada H1R 2S7

It is money well spent.

HARDMASTER:

The leading distributer of programs for the 99/4A, Asgard Software, has released another innovative product in HARDMASTER, a Myarc HFDC compatible utility for hard disk owners. Written by Colin Christensen, HARDMASTER is compatible with both the 99/4A and Geneve. Using a command line interface in the Advanced Diagnostics genre, HARDMASTER provides sector editing in hex or ASCII views, a Quad-Editor that allows four sectors to be edited at once, the ability to dump a range of sectors to your printer, both in hex and ASCII format and a host of other features that, with the exception of Randy Moore's hard disk sector editor, have not been available to the HFDC driven hard disk owner.

-Besides being hard disk compatible, the program apparently will also access Ram Disks and floppy disks from SS/SD to DS/DD format. The news release I read said that HARDMASTER requires 32K, Editor/Assembler and Myarc's Hard and Floppy Disk Controller card. I am not sure if the HFDC requirement applies only to those situations where sector editing of a hard disk is to be performed, or if it applies to the ram disks and floppy disks that also may be accessed with the program. At any rate I guess I will find out when my copy arrives. HARDMASTER is available for $14.95 from;

Asgard Software

P.O. Box 10306
Rockville, Md. 20850
703-255-3085

BLACK FRIDAY:

-Long time 99ers will recall that it was on Friday October 28, 1983 that Texas Instruments announced to the world that the 99/4A Home Computer would no longer be produced. In doing so, TI admitted defeat at the hands of Jack Tramiel and Company and decided to fold their hand on the home computer game. They have never fully recovered from that decision, and maybe never will.

-Many questions arose after the announcement, such as why the TI-99/8 was not brought out? Apparently the answer was, that TI filed or wanted to file bankruptcy on the Consumer Product Division's losses for the tax write-off, but could not because one division does not a company make, and companies file for bankruptcy, not divisions. With their staff of attorneys hard at work, TI was able to work out an agreement with the courts that they could take the tremendous tax write-off for the 99/4A if they removed themselves from that segment of the market totally. That was one of the reasons that a "Fulfillment House" (Triton Products Company) was chosen to dispose of remaining inventories of 99/4A stock.

-Although officially out of the Home Computer market, TI has continued to support 99/4A owners with repairs. They also have apparently continued to make periodic contact with Users Groups that were active during the days of 99/4A production. Most recently, I have discovered that the Mid-South 99ers in Memphis, Tennessee and the Kawartha 99ers in Peterborough, Ontario were contacted by TI Consumer Affairs representative Lois Brock, to see if their groups were still active. So there is still some interest stirring in Lubbock involving support for those who went out on a limb to support Texas Instruments. If your Users Group is still active, perhaps a letter to Lois would be a good idea. The information just might be passed around for the benefit of all. Write to;

Lois Brock
TI Consumer Affairs
P.O. Box 53
Lubbock, Texas
79408

DISCOVERIES:

-Jim Peterson, the old TigerCub, will be releasing TI-Public Domain Catalog #2 shortly, which contains 300 additional disks of public domain and "by-permission" Fairware programs. Those who have ordered from Catalog #1 will receive Supplement #4 listing all additions to the original catalog.

I recently purchased 24 PD disks from Jim, and was really pleased with

the prompt service and the neatly categorized manner that he has organized the programs into. I didn't realize that there was so much public domain software out there for the old 99/4 and 4A. If you want to find out what is available, contact Jim at;

TigerCub Software
156 Collingwood Ave.
Columbus, Oh. 43213

-BJ Mathis, President of the SouthWest 99ers in Tucson, has put together a "Best of Newsletters" book covering club newsletters from 1983-1988. It provides information on a variety of topics from hardware to TI-Writer. As with all of BJ's fare that I have seen, the book is cleanly laid out and professionally presented. If you would like to find out more, or order a copy right away, the price is $5.

SouthWest 99ers
Box 17831
Tucson, Az. 85730

-Marc Levine, the Illinois 99er who first brought the DKM Basic Compiler to my attention, is hard at work trying to accumulate the specs to archive algorithms for other computers. His goal is to provide enterprising 99/4A and Geneve programmers with the information necessary to enhance archiving capabilities even more for the TI Community.

-Jim Reiss, the assembly language wizard who brought us TYPEWRITER 99 has released a Fairware offering called PIX. It is a graphics picture display program with a new format that is apparently faster and more efficient for two color displays than the Run Length Encoded (RLE) format that is currently the standard. PIX supposedly stores color pictures in a single file and will handle TI-Artist, Graphx and RLE format files, including saving them. It is available on Delphi, Genie, probably CompuServe and perhaps your local BBS.

-Alexander Hulpke has written a 99/4A version of the classic game TETRIS that IBM'ers have had for a few years. The program is 100% assembly and works beautifully. In case you are not familiar with TETRIS, it is a quick-reflex game that requires you to stack and organize geometric shapes, that "fall from the sky", in the most efficient way possible. The more figures you are able to stack in the available box, the more points you make. Engrossing and difficult. A must for the intellectual game player. Mr. Hulpke asks only $10 for his efforts. I found the program on GEnie, but it is probably available on all of the major TI-SIGs and BBS's around the country. To order a copy or to send in the FairWare fee, write to;

Alexander Hulpke
Sadowastrasse 68
D-5600 Wuppertal 1
West Germany

TRIVIA:

Did you know that;

-Among all the other game modules AtariSoft offered for the 99/4A, they listed one (that I've never heard of or seen) called Super Storm?

-Gary Kaplan's 99'er-Ware spin-off from 99er Magazine offered several products including the TI-Sette cassette recorder adapter, a single sheet feeder for the MX-80 printer, a disk caddy called the Mini-Flex File, some nice binders to keep your back issues of 99er safe and a complete typing course on cassette called Key Master?

-Fred McCarty, author of Textiger, one of the early extended basic word processors for the 99/4 and 4A (before TI-Writer appeared in August of 1982), marketed his program under the company name Patio Pacific Inc. before changing the name to Textiger to match the name of the product?

-MPI's 99G Omega printer, which debuted in October '82 at TI-FEST, had a unique front loader for the single sheet feeder that accepted paper from the bottom (underneath) of the printer? Whatever happended to that gem, anyway? It looked great and had good performance stats.

-Peter Cookman's Denali Data Company, which introduced the first joystick adapter for the 99/4 and 4A so Atari joysticks could be used instead of the Wired Remote Controllers, also produced adapters so that Bally, Oddessy and Le Stick joysticks could be used on the 99/4 and 4A?

-There were two numeric keypads offered for the 99/4A (that I am aware of), the Computech SpeedKey and the Denali Data JoyPad? I cannot find any evidence that the Denali JoyPad actually made it off of the drawing board however. Has anyone out there actually seen one? There was also a software program called KEYPAD II that was marketed by Tom Owens, 1937 Claremont Ave #23 Ashland, Ohio 44805, in 1984 that apparently was designed to turn the 99/4A keyboard into a numeric keypad.

-YCAN Systems Inc., producer of the YCAN Business Software package that has most recntly been marketed by TexComp, Triton and others, originally started out as Paul Yates Computer Services? TexComp has recently began offering the YCAN products for $7.95 by the way. It includes order-entry inventory tracking, mail list management and more. Although I have never seen it reviewed anywhere, I don't see how you can go wrong at that price if the product is in your realm of interest.

THIS MONTH IN TI-99 HISTORY:

<1980>

In a letter to the United Kingdom, TI tells dealers that an extended grom is under development but memory expansion is not planned. They point out that no interaction between Basic and the groms in the computer is possible, though the statement is not true as far as PRK and the Statistics modules are concerned. A February '81 date is given for delivery of the UK PAL model. Modules promised for November 1980 release in the UK are Five a Side Football and Hunt the Wumpus.

<1981>

Netherlands 99er Paul Karis reveals the hidden secrets of the PRK module in an article published in TIHOME TIdings in England.

-TEXNET goes on-line Oct. 23rd on The Source. It is the first TI-SIG offered on any commercial information service.

<1982>

The 99er Magazine TI-FEST takes place in San Francisco on the 22nd to 24th.

-TIHOME TIdings magazine publishes a CALL G,H,L,P and S article for PRK basic.

-DISPLAY ENHANCEMENT PACKAGE released by Oak Tree Systems.

-TI-FORTH is shown at TI-FEST.

-Micro Peripherals Incorporated's 99C Omega printer debuts at TI-FEST in San Francisco.

<1983>

TI announces publically (on the 28th) that it will no longer be producing the 99/4A. The $50 rebate program is cancelled on October 31st but TI decides to continue the free Speech Synthesizer (with the purchase of six modules) offer until January 31, 1984.

-Sierra On-line agrees to produce JAWBREAKER for the 99/4A.

-Doryt Systems, Dhein Hardware and Tex- ware Associates advertise a contest for 99ers that is jointly sponsored by all three firms.

-Navarone releases the GromBuster.

-ProStick 2002 joystick released.

-Andrew Pollack writes a multi-page article on the demise of the 99/4A in the October 29, 1983 edition of the New York times.

<1984>

Mikel Labs releases an RS232 standalone unit for the 99/4A.

-Infocom releases SEASTALKER adventure game.

<1985>

Myarc's Lou Phillips announces that the 256K 99/4A compatible computer will be demonstrated at the Chicago TI Faire.

-CAN INC. of Longueuil, Canada announce the release of MAXIMEM.

-Myarc announces the shipping of XBII.

-"CRACKING THE 99/4A" book released by Midnight Express Publishers.

-Crow Software releases TRIBE scanner for dialing into "other" computers.

-Shipping of CorComp's Triple Tech card begins.

-VMC Software, Box 326 Cambria Heights, New York, announces HIMS, a new Home Information Management System.

<1986>

MYARC announces intentions to produce a hard disk controller for the 99/4A.

-MG (Millers Graphics) announces a disk of utilities for the GRAM KRACKER.

-Last REGENA or any other 99/4A article appears in COMPUTE!.

<1987>

First checksum program for proofing TI BASIC/XB programs appears in MICROpendium. Written by Los Angeles 99er Tom Freeman.

-Myarc releases first version of MDOS for the Geneve 9640 computer.

-A comprehensive comparison of database managers for the 99/4A is published in MICROpendium.

-Datax announces move to Florida.

<1988>

Long time LA 99er Users Group member George Steffen dies in New York.

-Dr. Ron Albright, author of the Orphan Chronicles leaves his post as a writer for the TI Forum monthly column.

-MICROpendium begins a new monthly column entitled MICROreviews. Author is Harry Brashear.

-PRESS word processor is scheduled to debut at the Chicago Faire on Nov 12.

-HyperCopy by Mike Dodd is said to be ready for release at Chicago Faire.

-Tex Comp Box 33084 Granada Hills, Cal. 91334 announces that it will begin sale of the Collins Starter Packs for game programmers.

DEAR MICROpendium,

HELP ! HELP ! HELP !
---

I need the help from the leaders & readers of MICROpendium. (And also all the users of the TI99/4A & GENEVE 9640 .)

Now is that a good opening or what ?

Here I go again.
The help I (WE) need is to find a way to get the users of OUR COMPUTERS to sit down and do some PROGRAMING.
It's time to get started on THE 1990 PROGRAMING CONTEST !
Not the time for me to get it in gear. It's time for YOU to get going.
The only new program that I got so far is , NONE YET .
Ican't tell if it is a DIET PROGRAM, or A DIRTY SEX THING .
OK,OK. SO I MADE A JOKE !

Heres the way it is ;
The Chicagos TI99/4A USERS GROUP is having the 1990 PROGRAMING CONTEST. And all the users of our computers are welcome to join in the contest. Write a new program. Or, enter a old program that you wrote. Heck, I know that just about all of you have many programs that only you have. Why ? Is it because you don't think that the rest of us will find it helpful? BULL !
It was of some use to you. Share it, and you just might WIN SOME MONEY. OR, You might WIN EVEN MORE THEN MONEY !
And you could be helping some other COMPUTER-NUTS. The prizes . The money . The way to do it all. (HOPEFULLY) I will get BIG BOB to RE-RUN the last article again in this newsletter.
I DO HOPE THAT THE PROGRAMS WILL SOON COME ROLLING IN. COMON NOW, PLEASE DON'T WAIT UNTIL MARCH 1990 TO MAIL THEM IN.
Ahh, You girls & guys are realy going to get me going. This is a set-up. You're all waiting for the very last minute to get it in. You're going to make me work my fat off in APRIL to get it all done.
Well it might work. Got enought fat for that. But I might not have enough time . So, SEND THEM IN NOW ! (PROGRAM EARLY,PROGRAM OFTEN!)
Thats a loco thing, something about voteing.
OK! So do it after the GREAT TI99/4A & GENEVE 9640 COMPUTER FAIRE !

OK BOB ? DROP IN THE FIRST ARTICLE AGAIN.
SOMEONE JUST MIGHT READ THIS.
Tony Zlotorzynski #46 PROGRAMING CONTEST CHAIRPERSON , 1990.

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P.S. If we don't get the rubberband all wound-up, It will never fly !

# 1990 PROGRAMING CONTEST

# FOR THE TEXAS INSTRUMENT TI99/4A HOME COMPUTER

# AND

# FOR THE MYARC GENEVE / 9640.

The CHICAGO'S TI99/4A USERS GROUP is having a programing contest.
And what happened is someone said that we should get it going early the next time. (ME !) Well,I got the contest to run the next time. Here is the run-down !
STARTS NOW . Last entry accepted on 04-01-1990 . JUDGED IN APRIL 1990 . WINNERS ANNOUNCED AT THE MAY,1990 CHICAGO'S USERS GROUP MEETING .

PRIZES WILL BE ;

FIRST PRIZE = $100.00

SECOND PRIZE = $75.00

THIRD PRIZE = $50.00

FOURTH to TENTH PRIZES WILL BE A COMPLETE COPY OF ALL ENTRIES ! (WOW !)

THINK ABOUT IT ! FOURTH to TENTH PRIZES WILL PROBABLY BE BETTER THEN THE FIRST THREE PRIZES . NOW IF THAT AIN'T SOMETHING .
I'M GOING FOR MORE THEN 200 ENTRIES FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD.
IN ANY LANGUAGE THAT CAN BE USED, LOGO,ASSEMBLY,FORTH,BASIC, EXTENDED BASIC,c , P , G ,PLOTER , SUPER FORTH , SST , ASPIC , PASCAL ect. .
Did I miss any of them ? Any language that the computers can use, With or without any cartrage . (MINIMEM - TE-II - ADVENTURE - TUNNELS OF DOOM - SUPER CART ) Well, If I can't review them, I'll get help. The reviews will be in the newsletter. All entries will be reviewed and commented on and numbered .
No matter how large or small any program is, it will be entered . Any age is acceptable . I do not want to know any ages .
(It would just make me look bad that a 7 year old kid can do better then I can.) In fact, My kid is better then I am in some programing.
Back to the programing contest !
Don't read the rest of this NEWSLETTER . As soon as you are done reading this artical, Go write a program ! Get started NOW .

When you get done with your program, Then read the rest of this newsletter .
All entries will become property of the CHICAGO'S USERS GROUP LIBRARY .And will become part of the library .

Programs should be coming in from all over the world.
AUSTRALIA , CHINA , SOUTH AMERICA , NORTH AMERICA , EUROPE AFRICA . There are programmers and users all over the world.

Any and all entries will be mailed to me at my home or to THE CHICAGO USERS GROUP . To my attition . OR , If you wish ; I have a 1200 baud MODEM . VOICE first !
I'LL GIVE ALL THAT INFORMATION AT THE END OF THIS.

Now just a word on getting you off your duff . There are some people who tell me that I ain't got a chance of getting more then twenty programs . Well, I have more confidence in the people who still play and use our computers. Show them all that we are still alive , well and still loving out toy computers. There is no limit of how many entries you can put in. Send them in on DISK (S.S.S.D.) or TAPE . Or 1200 baud MODEM !

The CHICAGO'S TI99/4A USERS GROUP BBS PHONE NUMBER is 1-312-862-0182 or 1-708-862-0182 .
MY COMPUTER phone number is 1-312-755-0051 or 1-708-755-0051 .
There will be a change in the area code for some of the phones in the CHICAGO area starting on NOVEMBER 1 , 1989 .
O K , That is in case that you want to modem your program in.

Now so that you can mail or bring it in ;

TONY ZLOTORZYNSKI
3607 WALLACE
STEGER, ILLINOIS
60475 U.S.A.
Att . PROGRAMING CONTEST

OR

Chicago TI User's Group
P.O. Box 578341
Chicago,Ill. 60657 U.S.A.
#46
att. CONTEST

P.S. I think this is a chance for you to win a good mess of programs for yourself or for your USERS GROUP.

Thanks all !

TONY ZLOTORZYNSKI #46 PROGAMING CONTEST CHAIRMAN.

# THE PRESIDENT SPEAKS. . .

To begin with, I would like to personally extend both my gratitude and admiration to Sandy (and Jon) Bartels for all of the work which she has done for our Faire. I would also like to thank Marcy Brun for the work which she has done for Sandy. Lastly, I would both like to thank and apologize to Christine Chambers. I thank her for all of the work which she has done as the chairman of both "The Friday Night Social Mixer," and "The Saturday Night Dinner." I apologize for not having given her either recognition or thanks in the past. I guess that when you have an operation as big as ours going, it is easy to make oversights. Christine, please forgive the error.

In my last president's article, it seems that I left my readers with a wrong impression. It appears that I worded one sentence to the effect that we would not have the TI Writer Supplement Manual ready for the Faire; this is not correct. I have spoken to our printer, and he is confident that they will be ready for the Faire. The cost to Faire attendees will be $5.00 apiece. There will also be a companion disk for this manual, which may also be purchased separately. This disk will contain all of the routines, files, and programs that are printed in the manual, and some that are not included in the manual. Purchaed both together, the cost, during the Faire will be $7.00. Purchased separately, the disk will sell for $5.00. If you are unable to attend the Faire, you can order them by mail; please add $2.00 for postage and handling. Our hardware manual will also be available at our Faire for $6.00 a copy.

If you attend our Faire, I urge you to hear Jim Horn speak on MANNERS's (Mid-Atlantic Ninety-Niners) "Free Computers to Teachers" program. We are instituting a similar one in the Chicago area, thanks to Carl Martikean, who has volunteered to be the coordinator of this program. Thanks for volunteering, Carl, and welcome aboard the Good Ship Chicago 99er's!

At the last meeting, our nominating committee announced that our secretary, Marcy Brun, will not be accepting this position next year. I will sorely miss having Marcy in this position, but I was most encouraged and pleased when Marcy announced that she will take over the vacant post of publicity chairman! Way to go, Marcy! Thanks for staying on board. I don't know what we would have done without you!!!

Our December meeting will be the last one that we will ever have at the Broadview American Legion Hall in Hillside, Illinois. We thank both them and Chuck Levitt for bringing the place to our attention. This location served a function for the time that we had our meetings there.

In January, we will begin to have our meetings at the St. Nicolai Church. (Though I totally disagree that our members were ever abusive of any facility which we have ever used, I would like to mention that it is requested that all children remain in the company of their parents.) This new place will give us some significant advantages: a.) As there is a kitchen facility, food will be served and sold there, b.) it is close

to three bus lines, c.) it is very close to a R.T.A. Rapid Transit Train station, d.) it is not too far from the center of the city, and e.) it has numerous small rooms for the purpose of various "break-out" meetings. And it is the latter point that I wish to here address:

In my eyes, our group is a highly diverse one. By this, I mean that there are a multitude of reasons why different people use a 4A. Some use it for entertainment (spelled G-A-M-E-S), some use it to learn how to program, some use it because using/having a computer now-a-days is considered to be, "in" and "cool." Some use it for keeping track of their golf and/or bowling scores. Some use it to keep track of their stock portfolio. Some use it for telecommunications, while others use it for data base management. Others use it for spread sheet management or other related financial uses while others, like me, use it for word processing. Some even use it for the management of their small business while others use it solely as a type of hobby. And we also mustn't forget those who use it for educational purposes. As you can see, the uses of our machine are quite numerous. For this reason, there is no way that our meetings can meet the needs of all of our members; every general meeting is therefore a grave compromise. It is therefore my feeling that in order to revitalize our meetings, we must return to our S.I.G.'s. And due to popular demand, we will definitely have our well-attended "Beginner's S.I.G." If I am unable to find someone to run it, I will allow the job to fall on my shoulders.

I hope to see and meet many of you at our Faire, but I also hope that those of you in the Chicago area will take the time to attend some of our regular meetings. I extend to all of our members a most relaxed, peaceful, and pleasant Thanksgiving holiday and a great and exciting experience at our Faire.

SEE YOU ALL AT THE FAIRE!!!

endit

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RAG Version 4.4 For The TI-Writer
by Carl E. Martikean

Since I do a lot of report writing and direct mail, I put my TI-Writer through the paces. However, the module switching between the TI-Writer and the X-Basic modules was driving me crazy not to mention causing concern over contact wear. So I began looking for an X-Basic word processor that mimiced TI-Writer.

I was not aware of the FUNNELWEB program and when the June 1989 issue of our newsletter did a mild rave about Art Green's new version of TI-WRITER, it seemed my prayers were answered. So I rushed my $10 off and within days I had my copy of version 4.4.

Art Green, the author, has really come up with a winner. He has provided the availability of 3 loaders - E/A, mini-memory or X-Basic modules. In addition there are two configure system programs - one for the editor and one for the formatter.

But let's start with the editor - with the character set installed (configured). All the old commands are there but with a noticeable speed increase. Also, the formatter commands can be entered in lower case or upper case or mixed if a string is done, and this is the first improvement.

You can now print the asterisk without having to use the TL command. You can override the defaults and define your own underscore or boldface or maillist characters.

The move command is not only faster but never gives the "out of memory" condition. Two new control commands have been added, "CTRL," for top of file and "CTRL," for end of file. When in the command mode, depressing "enter" put you back into edit mode, and if you want to quick quit enter QQ, and you are out. You get not further prompting and unless you've saved your file - you'll have to re-enter it.

And speaking of the formatter, it now is only 1 file long instead of the original 2 and has a true lower case character set. Several new features have been added and improved. Along with the asterisk bug, the bug in handling double ampersand and double at signs in centered lines lines have been fixed.

Besides being able to redefine the ML, overstrike and underscore characters, several new commands have been added. There is an AI, as is text begin, command. This is similar to the NF command but with the important distinction - the left margin is still observed. It's cancelled by the FI command. You can now enter printer control codes directly with the PC n1,n2,n3...command. This saves the trouble of using the TL command.

Here're a couple of questions - Have you ever printed something only to run out of page and have the best few words print on the next page? Or how about a document that is extra long - our newsletter for example, how can these be chained together? And what if disks need to be changed? Included is a conditional page eject. This command "CP n" forces a page break if there are less than "n" lines remaining on the current page. And to chain several files together a chain files, CF, command has been added. This command closes the main input file, the include file command does not. So the chain command should only be used at the end of a file. When enter is pressed the new file is processed, thus allowing changing disks. (Sorry but just as with the include file, nesting is not allowed. Also, only one copy will be made.) Finaly, when using the IF, ML and/or CH format command, if the disk number is the same as the main input file, then it can be specified by an asterisk. This allows printing independent of the drive originally selected.

Do you ever use pre-printed letterhead and try to guess where to position the top of the page to compensate for the 4 line feed when printing begins? Well, at the "pause at the end of page" prompt, if you're using letterhead, type in L. This indicated letterhead and 1. pauses at the end of each page and 2. the normal spacing done at the top of the page is not to be done so that the letterhead can be positioned correctly for the first line of printing. The lone count starts at line five when "L" is used.

On the whole, I find this version of TI-Writer a significant improvement over the original, and recommend it to anybody looking to move up. Now, if I could only find a spreadsheet like multi-plan to load through the X-Basic cartridge...

Genial Traveler
Diskazines

Volume 1 Numbers 1 and 2

Overview by Bill Gaskill

The idea of a diskazine or magazine on disk is not a new one and it didn't start with the Genial Traveler issues. Apple owners had the heralded MICROzine product 2-3 years before the GT issues ever came to life. Nonetheless, Barry Traver can certainly be credited with bringing the concept to the 4A community, and with style.

Genial Traveler first appeared on the scene in September of 1985 with advance notice to the TI Community being published in a variety of locations including MICROpendium, Tiger Cub Software flyers and more. Currently, there are nine Genial Traveler flippies available, at a cost of $36 per year. If you are not a GT subscriber, you REALLY should be. Some of the best information and public domain or fairware programs appear first in Genial Traveler. Contact;

GENIAL COMPUTERWARE
835 Green Valley Drive
Philadelphia, Pa. 19128
215-483-1379

After wrestling with a variety of ways to present the information, I have decided to do a disk at a time, with commentary on each of the files or programs contained on the disk being discussed. I hope that you find the information of use. Perhaps you will discover something truly useful that you didn't realize even existed, I did.

TRAVELER1l-side one of the GT Volume 1 Number 1 flippy diskette.

2FONTS/S1
2FONTS/S2 -assembly language source code files for 2FONTS/O program found on back side of GT Volume 1 diskette.

ARTICLES
ARTICLES/O -an XB program that loads the ARTICLES/O file below, and then reads the DV/80 file called MENU which contains the items listed on screen for you to select from. The ARTICLES program is a neat example of how extended basic and assembly language can be used together. There are CALL LOADS to change from the 28 column graphics mode to the 40 column text mode, display text in 40 column mode, routines that show how arrays created in extended basic can pass or retrieve data from assembly and more.

ARTSTGRPHX -article by Ron Albright on the plusses and minuses of TI-Artist and Graphx and how each can be used in conjunction with the other to benefit the user. A nice idea I suppose, but how many users own both programs?

DOUBLETEXT -article by Tom Freeman on how to print text files in double column.

DSRLNK/S -the source code for a Device Service Routine link for extended basic. This meansthat an extended basic program can gain access to the device polling routine inside the computer that controls input/output devices such as the RS232, your disk drives and the like. The file is the work of Texas Instruments and John Clulow.

FRIEND -a short note from Barry Traver asking subscribers not to pirate the GT disks for friends.

GENIAL -a text file authored by Barry Traver explaining the name GENIAL for the GT diskazines.

GOOD/GUYS -a list of popular TI vendors including Barry's favorite Pilgrim's Pride, which has since closed its store front operation and gone to mail order only.

LOAD -XB loader that boots the WELCOME/O file and then the ARTICLES/O file for menu display.

MENU -the menu system for access to the programs and files on side 1 of the disk. I puts the screen in 40 column mode and also contains a new CALL LOAD that
(text) emulates the NEW command.

RAW/S -source code for Barry Travers Read And Write A/L utility.

RS232/AL -source code file for the tutorials found in RS232/TXT1 and RS232/TXT2. Authored by Mack McCormick, former technical editor for MICROpendium.

RS232/TXT1 -assembly language tutorial explaining how to by-pass the RS232 ROM by programming at the chip level.

RS232/TXT2 -part 2 of above tutorial.

SIDEWYSTXT -documentation for SIDEWYS/CH and SIDEWYS/SC files on flip side of GT disk. Authored by Tom Freeman.

TIMESAVING -tips for saving money when using CompuServe.

WELCOME/O -uncompressed object code file that is booted by the LOAD program on the GT disk. Displays the smiley faces and erases them when sprite collision occurs.

WELCOME/S -source code for the WELCOME/O file above that explains its origin in Peter Lottrup's Mini-Mem assembly book. It is the file used to set up the LOAD screen that erases the smiley faces. Good assembly language tutorial for sprite use.

XBALT/DIR -directions for using Todd Kaplan's XBALT/O file that is found on Traveler12 (the flip side of this disk.

TRAVELER12

2DRIVECOPY -an extended basic utility that copies the entire contents of a SS/SD diskette in one disk drive to a pre-formatted diskette in another drive.

2FONTS/O -a machine code program that allows the XB programmer to switch between the standard TI character set and a true lower case set that appears on screen just like the first TI-Writer true lower case upgrade in the CHARA1 file. Ugly but functional.

2FONTSDEMO -XB demo program for 2FONTS/O. CALL LINK("NEWSET") displays the true lower case letters, CALL LINK("OLDSET") restores the standard character set.

CATALOG -another neat XB utility that provides disk cataloging to screen or printer or filename. Written by assembly language wizard Todd Kaplan.

CHAR/O -an assembly language object code file that redefines the upper case character set so that upper case letters are instantly redefined as larger letters like those that appear in the Home Financial Decisions module. The assembly language programming was done by John Bohos. The file is accessed via a CALL LINK from any XB program. Very attractive and nicely done.

CHARDEMO -the XB demo program for CHAR/O.

CHGE/TO/O -an XB program containing a CALL LOAD statement that will change the first line number in your program to zero. Changes only one line of Basic or XB code, not the entire program.

DEFTABLE -Basic program to PEEK into memory and display or print the first and last addresses of the code that is currently in low memory. Reads E/A, Mini-Mem and XB module addresses. If you run the program from GT's menu you will see that the CHARA1 file and Barry's CHAR routine are in low memory from the CALL LOADs that occur when the GT LOAD program is booted.

DOUBLEPRNT -the actual Tom Freeman program to print two column text.

FIREBUTTON -a Barry Traver "Micro Tutorial" on how to detect which firebutton, on which joystick has been pressed. Presented as an XB program.

HIDESECTOR -an XB program that allows you to place information from

another disk or that you enter from the keyboard, into an unused sector on another disk. Makes use of the RAW utility, calculates the bit map of the target disk. Excellent example of how TI Disk Controller formatted disks are read, written to etc. Program contains typical example of Barry Traver humor along with CALL LOAD examples.

HOLEYMOLEY -an XB game by John Behnke of the Chicago TI Users Group. It pits you as the farmer against a mole who is trying to eat all of your carrots. I recall seeing an Atari 2600 game of a similar vein years back. Good graphics and support for speech. Requires a joystick to play it. We don't see much from John these days, since he joined Chicago's finest. Probably stuck on the graveyard shift.

LOAD -an interesting program that emulates the GPL coded color bar screen that appears each time you turn your computer on. But for the fact that it tries to fake you out by telling you that "all circuits are busy", you couldn't tell the difference between it and the real thing. You would probably think that something has gone wrong with your console when you tried to load GT and had it return to the color bar screen. Cute program. Originally authored by John Hoge in 1980, modified by Barry Traver in 1984.

LOCKITUP -an XB/AL utility to make your floppy disks unreadable to others. Actually, I think it moves the contents of the File Allocation Table in sector 1 so that there are zeros in the first 3-4 bytes, thus preventing the disk from being cataloged, but still allowing you access to the files/programs because you know the names of them. Same type of thing can be done with a sector editor, but with a great deal more effort, or with Advanced Diagnostics with less effort. AD just takes longer to load than LOCKITUP does.

MAKE/DATA -a utility to create the ASCII bit coding for sideways characters that are used by your printer. Companion program for Tom Freeman's SIDEWYS programs on the flip side of the GTI disk.

MENU -XB program that lists/runs the contents of GT side two.

MULTIPLIBI -one of the MOST interesting programs on the disk. It demonstrates a method of multiplying large numbers that I have never seen before (so-called Russian Multiplication?). The multiplication is actually done by division and addition. The method works with small numbers too, but would not be needed. Of course if you use a calculator you don't need to learn this method either. But if you are interested in mental gymnastics involving numbers you will want to look at this program.

PENNEYTOSS -a game program that must be rigged! I played the computer and lost EVERY time. Fun to play though. No graphics, just text with minimal color. Written in TI Basic by Barry Traver.

PROTECTOR -XB/AL utility to write-protect all files on a disk.

RAW -an XB/AL utility that allows you to Read And Write to a single disk sector at a time. Authored by Barry Traver with credit for assistance in the development given to; Michael Riccio, Todd Kaplan, Paul Charlton, Chris Faherty and a couple of the other assembly language wizards that the TI Community has been blessed with.

RAW/MENU -XB program that loads all of the RAW-based utilities on the GT1 disk.

RAW/O -an assembly language object file that provides Read And Write capabilities to from and to a floppy or ram disk. Written by Barry Traver himself. The file is used throughout GT Volume 1 in many of the other programs. It was also used by John Johnson when he created the utilities for Bill Warren's PR-Base V1.0. A very useful utility for the extended basic programmer.

SEARCHMAZE -one of the best TI Basic games you will ever see, second only to Worm of Beemer I think. It has great graphics and is fun to play. You must search for and destroy a host of X's that are placed at various locations within a maze, all within 5 minutes. Written by Barry Traver from an idea in Craig Miller's Smart Programmer's Guide To Sprites book. It obviously doesn't use sprites though.

SECTORZERO -simply the best program available to explain the use of sector zero on a floppy or ram disk. Runs out of extended basic and even allows you to analyze your own disk, down to the byte level. Neat, informative and very useful.

SHOW/DV80 -an XB/AL program that invokes the 40-column text mode and then provides the ability to display text files of up to 30 sectors in length. Line feeds and carriage returns should be removed from the text file first.

SIDEWYS/CH -XB program that prints a text file sideways with true lower case letters based upon the CHARA1 file coding used in TI-Writer.

SIDEWYS/SC -XB program that prints a text file sideways using small capital letters for the lower case set.

SWEEP/DISK -an extended basic utility that makes use of Barry's RAW (Read And Write) assembly routine to re-write the file alocation table on the disk so that it appears the disk

is empty. Save you the time and bother of initializing the disk.

XBALT/O -an assembly language utility to merge A/L code in with an XB program so that both are saved as an XB program., thus reducing disk space needed to store the program and load time since you don't have to CALL LOAD a DF/80 file. Although XBALT/O is the first of the two out of the gate, Barry Boone's SYSTEX is easier to use.

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## HOW DO I LOAD THEE,<br>LET ME COUNT THE WAYS..

by Ernie Pergrem

It started out to be a simple litte menu loader program. I figured 20 or 30 lines (including the RUN "DSKn" statements) and it would be finished. No big deal, 30 minutes or so, tops. WRONG. As it was I ended up with 6 versions of the program and a education on the various ways to load a character set into an Extended BASIC program.

I know that I'm not alone in wanting to change the appearance of the character set in a program. The TI default characters tend to be blocky and unappealing. Addtionally, the lower case letters are simply smaller versions of the upper case. Since TI probably won't reenter the computer market just to resolve the inadequacies of the 99/4A char set, I decided to do it myself.

As most XB programmers know, the easiest way to redefine single, or multiple characters is with the CALL CHAR command. For smaller stings you can get by with multiple pattern identifiers coded within one CALL CHAR statement, your only limitation being the length of a program line. If your plans are to redefine the entire character set (ASCII codes 32-127) then READ/DATA statements within a FOR-NEXT loop are probably the best way to go.

```
10 FOR A=32 TO 127 :: READ A$ :: CALL CHAR(A,A$) :: NEXT A
XX DATA FFFFFFFFFFFFFFFF,etc.
```

This method is simple and reduces the amount of coding within a program. However, there is a price for the simplicity of this method. Loading time. Changing the character set (ASCII codes 32-127) will add, approximately, 12 seconds to your program. 12 seconds may not seem like much when you're busy, but sitting in front of your computer waiting for a program to start makes that 12 seconds very significant. As an example: My program originally loaded in 5 seconds with the TI character set. Using the above method pushed it up to 17 seconds.

Since this achived the results I was after (an improved character set) but tripled my load time I began to look for a faster method.

My first thoughts were towards having a CHARAI type file loaded by the program. Had I not let my curiosity blind me, perhaps logic would have slapped me in the back of the head. Seldom is loading from a seperate file faster that putting the new definitions within the program. But hey! I admit it I got carried away, after all if the big boys (Funnelweb, DISKU, TELCO, etc) can do it why can't I? Anyway it gave me a chance to play with Wayne Stith's KWIKFONT. I had downloaded it from GEnie a few weeks earlier and was looking for an opportunity (excuse) to try it out. KWIKFONT is an assembly language character definition program that is surpassed only by the amount of documentation that accompanies it. The actual program encompasses 45 sectors, of a DSSD disk. An additional 605 sectors consist of "commented" source code. For students of TI-99/4A Assembly Language, this is a god-send. The only problem I had with the entire program was, it wouldn't permit me to save part of a font set to disk, then come back later to finish it. The new file wrote over the existing one rather than merging. Since I have a tendency to "skim" rather than "read" docs, the problem may lie with me and not the the program. The character pattern identifiers are stored in DV/80 format and can be easily altered by TI-Writer. Loading the redefined file involves the use of OPEN/INPUT statements:

```
10 OPEN #1:"DSKn.CHARSET", INPUT
20 IF EOF(1) THEN CLOSE #1 :: GOTO 60
30 INPUT #1,A$,B$
40 CALL CHAR (ASC(A$),B$)
50 GOTO 20
```

Wayne's program places the actual character, rather that the ASCII code in the file (that explains the use of the ASC statement). However my computer, refused to recoginize it so I ended up replacing the character with the ASCII code and dropped the ASC command and changed A$ to A. While the file loaded flawlessly, my new character set looked great, and the program executed perfectly, my load time was now 49 seconds. So much for method number 2. On with the search.

Okay, if I can't do it fast enough in Exended BASIC, I'll go to the Formula Ones of computer languages: Assembly. Heck, it was fast, and redefining characacters shouldn't be that hard. Actually it was a lot easier than I figured. In the back of Ralph Molesworth's "Introduction to Assembly Language" was the program I was looking for. Once again I found myself keying in a character set. Well, actually all I did was to rearrange the DV/80 file I had created with KWIKFONT and added the neccessary Assembly instructions. I compiled the program, and added the program lines:

```
10 CALL INIT :: CALL LOAD("DSK1.CHARSET") :: CALL LINK("CHAR")
```

I was using my first Assembly-XB linked program. Well kindof, cause this time the program loading time dropped from 47 to 22 seconds. Yep, reading the new characters from a disk file definitely wasn't going to work.

After learning my lesson about external file usage I decided to go back to defining the characters from within the program itself. I had seen programs that redefined a single character(usually the cursor) with a series of CALL LOAD statements. This was the route I decided I would go. TALK ABOUT LACK OF INFORMATION. I ended up appealing to Rich Klein, John Birdwell and just about anyone else who would listen to get some education on the use of CALL LOADS in XB. The final answer came in the form of a program, ACE, listed in MICROpendium that converted XB compatible Assembly programs into a series of CALL LOADS (I would like to take this opportunity to thank Al Stump for selling me those back issues of MICROpendium, they've been my TI bible). I was able to get a copy of the program, by Paolo Bagnaresi, from GEnie. I converted the object file created by my previous CHARSET assembly program and merged the resulting CALL LOADS with my existing program lines. The resulting program was definitely faster than my previous attempts. Load time was now 12 seconds

I could handle that. I mean who would care about 7 seconds. It was a compromise I was willing to accept for the a more attractive character set. Program finished.

Then along came Rich Klein. After the October meeting he and I were talking about my program and he said "why don't you SYSTEX it?". Thanks Rich. Now you've got my curiosity aroused. I can see another hour or so in front of the TI trying out option number 5. SYSTEX, by Barry Boone, is another one of those programs I've had in my library for a year or so, with no idea of how I was going to use it. I dug it out, "scanned" the docs and loaded the program. I added the coding necessary for my program and ran it. Boy that was fast, 5 seconds. But wait! Where's my character set? Looks like the TI set. No wonder this sucker was fast. It didn't load my characters. Oh hell, it's already 1:30 AM and I have to get up at 6 for work, I'll just work on it tomorrow. 2:30 AM, can't sleep. I wonder if I add CALL LINK("CHAR") if that will do anything. WOW, 5 seconds, and hey, there's my character set. IT WORKS! IT WORKS! God I love this country.

So there you have it 5 ways to include a redefined character set in your Extended BASIC program. No doubt a lot more time was spent on the project than necessary. But then again, I was doing it for my own edification. It also gave me a chance to use some really great software, and see how Assembly routines interface with Extended BASIC. And isn't that what it's all about?

FOUR-A/TALK

Random ramblings
about things TI.

by Bill Gaskill

June 1989

AAARRRGGGHHH!!!

Once again I come to you on bended knees, begging your forgiveness for not keeping my promise (sort of) on the Genial Traveler Diskazines, and borrowing a title for this edition of Four-A/Talk from best friend Steve Mehr to express my frustration at having to admit the error of my ways once more. When I "really" got into the GT disks I discovered so much wonderful material that I realized each disk could easily fill an entire Four-A/Talk article, which would leave room for nothing else. Since your newsletter editor likes to spice up each edition with a variety of articles, by different authors, they would have had to cut the Four-A/Talk information down to a portion of what it should be. So, I have decided to do the GT reviews as separate articles. If room permits, you will find my overview of GT Volume 1 numbers 1 and 2 in this newsletter. If not, perhaps it will appear in a future edition.

WHAT'S HOT:

- TI-SORT from Inscebot Inc., Art Green's TI-Writer (re-write) V4.3 (no it's not a typo, V.2 was covered last month), Jim Peterson's Public Domain Catalog, TimeLine99, Marty Kroll's CATLIB V1.5 and CATCOM companion to CATLIB, Randy Moore's Sector Editor for hard or floppy disks and Page Pro 99 from Asgard.

DISCOVERIES:

-The wizards from Florida, Inscebot Inc., namely Dennis and Chris Faherty, have done it again! They have created an assembly language sort program that is without equal in the TI Community. The version that I beta-tested sorts TI-Base files, fixed length files from any program, delimited files from any program and data files created from Basic (and Xbasic) programs.

I was purposely given the file without any documentation and still managed to figure the program out in less than five minutes. It uses many of the familar TI-Base interface routines, so it wasn't too difficult. A nice touch.

From what I can tell, TI-SORT is limited to 99,999 records in a file. No, that is not a typo. TI-SORT can order a data base that is one record short of one hundred thousand records. It uses a disk-caching method to sort large files, where blocks of data in 180 record increments are sorted (which takes 3-5 seconds per block!) and then a

temporary file is written to disk for each block of data. When all records have been sorted the temporary files are used to reference the correct order of the records for the write to disk of the sorted file. This does make the program disk intensive, but 99,999 on 24K of RAM? Come on! I'm not going to complain, are you?

I performed a few benchmarks to give you an idea of the speed of the program. I sorted a 2990 (999 sector) record file on my hard disk by a single field (you can sort by up to 8 fields). It took 13:49. The actual sorting of data took about 6:28. The remaining time was consumed in writing the sorted file back to disk. That might seem like a lot of time, but 3000 records is a pretty hefty data base by 99/4A standards.

I then took a TI-Base file that was 800 records long (268 sectors) and sorted it on a floppy disk. It took 13:03 to get the job done. The exact same file sorted by the exact same field on may hard disk took 3:03. So as you can see, the type of disk drive you use makes a substantial difference in sort speed. Using the hard disk saved a full ten minutes. A ram disk would be slightly faster than the hard drive.

TI-SORT works off of a floppy, ram disk or hard drive. As you can see from the benchmarks, it also sorts data that resides on any of the same media. The commercial release of TI-SORT is scheduled for the end of June. The price tag will be $14.95 plus $2.50 to cover shipping and handling. If you are interested in this jewel of a utility, write to;

Inscebot Inc.
Box 291610
32029
Port Orange, Fl.

You may also call them at 904-767-3922.

-Art Green's Macro Assembler is now in Version 7, with continued performance improvements. The TI-99/4A Object Code Linker is now in Version 3.

-Dick Altman's Fairware List, now managed by Steve Mehr, hasn't been updated since 1987. Steve is in need of some honest help from us in bringing the list up to snuff. If you have a program that you would like on the list, or if you know (from your own experience) that a particular piece of software that used to be fairware, is no longer fairware, or if you know that a fairware author's address has changed, PLEASE contact Steve with the information. The address again is;

Steve Mehr
633 Hollyburne Lane
Thousand Oaks, Ca. 91360

As an aside, you might be interested in knowing that I have put a little pizzaz into the Fairware List's organization. If Steve decides to go with it, folks who send for it may get the version that provides a menu of choices to browse through the list with, rather that the

three TI-Writer files of the past.

NEWS:

-FEST-WEST '90 will be held in Tucson, Arizona February 17th-18th, 9am-5pm and 9am-3pm respectively. The Days Inn on Broadway in downtown Tucson has been chosen as the site. More on this in future columns. Thanks SouthWest 99ers!!!

-Art Green has released version 4.3 of his marvelous TI-Writer clone. The upgrade fixes a small bug in the indent routine that exists in V4.2 where you would save a file and the margins were not recalled when the file was reloaed.

-Inscebot's Dennis Faherty has begun work on a "fully" hard disk compatible version of TI-Base. He hopes to have it out by mid-summer or earlier if all goes well. Also in the works is a stand-alone report generator for TI-Base. For those who have wondered, among the other features planned for TI-Base V3.0 are a repeat key to speed up data entry and to save you from having to type in a command each time you want to perform a similar function from the dot prompt, and a new directive that will support string searches anywhere within a string.

-Inscebot's Chris Faherty is hard at work on TI-Artist Plus!, reported to be "much more" than just an upgrade to TI-Artist. No release date announced yet. Inscebot's address;

-I've also heard that Martin Smolley of the NorthCoast 99ers has come up with some neat TI-Base routines to print graphic labels by manipulating the codes in the PRINTER driver file. What an innovative user he is. I'll bet he could write a book on all of the things that can make TI-Base do, if he could just find the time to write it.

-Assembly language wizard Marty Kroll is considering a hard disk version of his CATLIB disk library utility. More on this in a future Four-A/Talk hopefully.

-I just received a copy of Page Pro 99 from Asgard and will feature it in the next Four-A/Talk, or perhaps MICROpendium if John and Laura are interested. I can tell you already, from about 30 minutes of using it, that it is FUN!!!! The program is destined to be a hit in the TI Community, guaranteed. The price is $24.95 plus $.75 shipping and handling. If you are interested, Asgard may be contacted at;

Aggard Software
Box 10306
Rockville, Md.
20850

HARD DISK USER TIPS:

-Much to my delight, I have discovered that Myarc's MDM5, V1.28, the

disk manager for my 20mb hard drive, may be accessed from FunnelWeb V4.10 that is being run off of the Horizon Ram Disk. Probably because of the way I have the HFDC configured (I use it only for the hard disk), I always had a problem getting MDM5 to perform properly when booted from the E/A5 loader in JJ's Menu on my Horizon Ram Disk. The program would load, but disk management functions would not work correctly. To get MDM5 to work properly I had to insert the Editor/Assembler module in my console and load MDM5 from it, after shutting the auto-boot feature of JJ's Menu off. Now, I just load FunnelWeb, access the E/A loaders, select loader three (3) and type in the correct directory and file name (WDS1.UTIL.MDM5 in may case). Program performance is flawless and the access to it is ram/hard disk fast. I believe that I would never have truly been able to equate power computing with the 99/4A had I not purchased Myarc's HFDC and a hard disk. What a marvelous addition to my hardware!

THIS MONTH IN TI-99/4A HISTORY:

1979:

The TI-99/4 is unveiled but doesn't actually make it to market until early 1980 because of pre-production bugs that couldn't be worked out in time for the Christmas season.

-The new computer has a chiclet style keyboard and no lower case letter set, and it is supported by a line of stand alone peripheral devices that have to be "chained" together.

1981:

The TI-99/4A is unveiled at the Summer Consumer Electronics Show in Chicago. It has a suggested retail price of $525 for just the console.

-Additional releases at the '81 Summer CES were TI LOGO, TEXNET, TEII, the Scott, Foresman ADDITION and SUBTRACTION I modules and the EDITOR/ASSEMBLER package.

-An external keyboard interface for the TI-99/4 is designed, and the plans introduced to the public by Mike Kovacich in May of 1981, only weeks before TI introduces the 4A with its improved keyboard.

-Denali Data, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma introduces a joystick adapter so that Atari joysticks can be used on the TI-99/4 Home Computer.

1982:

TI issues a full page ad in the Summer Consumer Electronics Show trade paper warning third-party software developers of possible legal action if they produce "unlicensed" software for the 99/4A.

-TI UK announces that the PE box is to be available in England by August.

1983:

Plans to introduce the TI-99/8 (the 64K upgrade computer for 99/4A owners) are shelved indefinitely. The beige colored, plastic cased version of the 99/4A, with the new GROM, is released.

-Jim Peterson, 156 Collingwood Avenue Columbus, Ohio 43213, issues "Tips From TigerCub" #1.

-Prostick II joystick released.

1984:

Myarc releases MPES expansion system with DS/DD disk controller card.

-SunWare, a Lubbock, Texas firm, offers cartridge making service to programmers of 99/4A applications.

-TI establishes 800-TI-CARES phone.

-Assembly language DEBUGGER program is released to the public domain.

-HOMEWORK HELPER released by Navarone.

-Phil Barnes releases 99CALC, the first XB spreadsheet available for the TI-99. The program is advertised in the June issue of Computers and Electronics, on page 117.

-"32 Basic Programs for the TI-99/4A" book by Dilithium Press debuts.

-"The TI-99/4A Idea Book" book by David Ahl debuts in Creative Computing.

1985:

Great Lakes Software, Howell, Michigan announce the release of JOYPAINT 99, a graphics drawing program to compete with TI-ARTIST and the Australian produced GRAPHX.

-Nutmeg 99ers in Waterbury, Connecticut are formed with David Gallegher as the person to contact for membership.

-Harold Simmons, 9818-49th Avenue, in College Park, Md. 20740-1432, starts an all TI-99/4A museum.

-Millers Graphics releases EXPLORER.

-Navarone Industries releases Console Writer word processor in a module.

-Mark Sumner, CSI Design Group, who is later to become the first TI99/4A Sysop on GEnie, releases "WINDOWS" for the TI Home Computer. The program is actually written by Ken Dibble.

1986:

Craig Miller sells the rights to The Smart Programmer to Richard Mitchell, Super 99 Monthly publisher. The two journals are merged under one name, The Smart Programmer, which will be published from Sulphur, Louisiana.

-Tenex Computer Express begins offering MS-DOS and Apple clone computers in their TI-99/4A catalog.

1987:

Myarc receives an award from the Front Range 99er Computer Club of Colorado in appreciation for its support of the TI- 99/4A computer community.

-Ryte Data's R/D Computing publishes a 64K memory map modification project.

-Ryte Data announces that it has a poor subscriber base for the R/D Newsletter, and that operations will cease if more interest is not generated.

-Monty Schmidt releases GPL assembler / linker for the 99/4A.

1988:

DataBiotics announces that the long-awaited GRAND RAM card for the PE Box will ship in July.

-Pilgrim's Pride, a long-time supplier and supporter of 99/4A products, closes its Hatboro, Pennsylvania retail store. Mail-order business is retained.

TRIVIA:

Did you know that;

-It is the "A" in the TMS9918A Video Display Processor chip that gave the 99/4A its name. The 99/4's screen controller chip is the TMS9918. Both are 40 pin silicon chips but the TMS9918A chip has a bit map mode that the TMS9918 does not.

-The TI-99/8 came with Extended Basic and Pascal in ROM chips like the 4A has TI Basic.

-In July of 1981 TI Engineer Richard Tarrant submitted plans for the TI-99/7? The 99/7 was an upgrade plan to the 99/4 that provided software compatibility with the 99/4 but had 512 bytes of scratchpad workspace instead of the 256 bytes found on the 99/4, 90K of internal GROM instead of the 18K found on the 99/4, a 58 key keyboard with 4 rocker switches, instead of the 99/4's 40 key keyboard, bi-directional cassette interfacing, designed I assume to allow any cassette recorder

to be used with the 99/7 instead of the limited number of recorders the 99/4 supported, 64K of expansion memory, support for an 80-column printer rather than the 32 column thermal printer that was the standard for the 99/4 and a disk controller that would handle 3 SS/SD or DS/SD diskettes. A new 300 baud modem was also planned that would support originate/answer capabilities rather than the originate only capabilities of the existing modem available for the 99/4. The 99/7 also featured a Pascal Interpreter built in, the same console Basic as the 99/4, a cooling fan with system shut-down capabilities in overheat situations, a keyboard with 55 keys in a row/column matrix, a Fctn key, a Ctrl key, four function rocker switches and an LED indicator for modem carrier detect and software monitoring. One of the four rocker switches provided hardware selectable originate or answer status for the modem. I am unable to determine what the other three were designed for.

-MG's ADVANCED DIAGNOSTICS, written by Steve Mildon, was originally called MEMORY and DISK DIAGNOSTICS?

-Craig Miller was involved in a project in 1984 to create a SCI TECH Ram disk for the 99/4A that never came to fruition? The product was to have been available in 248, 504, 760 and 1016 sector models. It was also slated to have a 32K add-on feature that would allow for expansion memory directly on the ram disk instead of having to use the TI 32K card. Mention of it is made in MINI-MAG 99, along with Renoir and some other projects that MINI-MAG editor Leslyn Tepper was made privy to through her association with Jerry Price of TEX-COMP and and Bill Moseid of Model Masters.

-Bill Moseid's MINI-WRITER word processor for the Mini-Memory module, later marketed heavily by TEX-COMP as part of an AXIOM GP-100TI printer and MINI-WRITER word processing package, was originally slated to be picked up and produced by TI as a licensed word processing program for the 99/4A. The '83 bailout quashed the plans apparently.

-The famous Ashton-Tate firm that markets dBase for IBM and compatibles never had an Ashton? The firm was started by Larry Tate after he purchased the rights to market Wayne Ratliff's data base program. Larry gave it the name dBase, not Wayne. Tate has since died and the firm now is a corporation, but there never was anyone named Ashton. Mr. Tate just thought that the name had a certain ring to it.

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## MINUTES BY MARCY

- The Executive Board Meeting of October 7, 1989 was brought to order at 11:30 am.

- Since the minutes of the last meeting were not in the newsletter, they were read and approved by the Executive Board.

- Marcy Brun stated that she will not be running for the office of Secretary for 1990, however, she has volunteered to handle the position of Publicity Chairman.

- Carl Martikean has announced that he will take the position of Coordinator for the "Closeted TI's Project". The purpose of this project is to find people who have closeted their TI; tell them about our group to get them involved in their TI or; help them donate their TI to a non-profit organization like a church, school, or nursing facility for a tax credit.

Carl will not be able to do all this on his own. He will need help to get this project moving. If anyone would be interest in working with him, please send him a note through our P.O. Box. Also if anyone knows of people willing to donate their TI for a tax credit, please drop Carl a line with the information. Also if anyone knows of any church, school, or nursing facility that is looking for a donation of a TI, send Carl the name, address, phone number and contact person.

This is one project that we all can help with. And by helping, we can better our TI cummunity. The more poeple that use the TI, the more and better programs will be generated for the TI. Not only by supply and demand, but also by giving others the chance to learn on a TI, it will bring new minds into the world of programing to create new and advanced programs for your TI community.

Thank you Carl for stepping forward and taking on this important project.

- We still have not started up our SIG groups yet. We need some volunteers to act as the teachers in the SIG groups. Don Jones feels that it is very important to keep SIG groups going to help each other. If anyone is interested in volunteering to act as a teacher showing others how to do programs like TI Writer, Multiplan, programing, etc. please contact Don on the Hot Line or step forward at the meetings.

- Don has been working on finding a new place for our meetings. One of our members, Mr. Jensen, has suggested a church on North Kedzie in Chicago which is close to Kimble, Belmont and the Kennedy Expressway. There is a large room for the meetings and small rooms for SIG groups to meet in. There is also a kitchen that could be used to make hot dogs or something simple this would bring in some money to pay towards the rent of the hall.

Mr. Jensen is on the committee of the church for renting out this facility. At this time we do not know how much the rent will be, or even if the hall is available at the times which we would need it. The rent normally cost $100, but Mr. Jensen may be able to bring the price down for us, but this is not clear at this time. The Executive Board was invited to look into this prospect if anyone was interested to do so.

(Regarding the meeting place which we are using at this time: If the equipment at the meeting facility is not operable, i.e. heating, air conditioning, lighting, then we are not obligated to our lease.)

- Don Jones has sent a copy of Micropendium Magazine and a cover letter to some libraries in the Chicago area. The letter states that this is a complimentary

copy of Micropendium and asks that it be put in the library for those interested in the TI computer. The magazine has a sticker on it stating that it is a donation from our group and for more information call the phone number which is posted on it.

At this time, he has gotten no responses back from any of the libraries and asks if anyone else might have any particular libraries which feel might be interested in this program. If you have any prospects, please leave a message on the Hot Line for Don.

- We are expecting two Italian members to visit us at the TI Faire in November. Since they are coming from such a great distance, they have decided to spend 20 to 30 days here after the Faire to tour the Chicago area. If anyone knows of an inexpensive but nice lodging facility which they could stay at please let us know via the Hot Line.

- Some time back, it was the decision of the Executive Board to not advertise for new members until we had all problems solved and we found that we were able to service the members which we had. Well, all the problems have been solved and with the various volunteers we now have working on projects, we seem to be handling everything all right.

Don feels that we should start advertising for new members again. There was a short discussion on this. The decision was that we should hold off on this subject until after the Faire next month and present it to the new Executive Board which will be elected in December.

One thing that did come out of this discusion was that Marcy had a list of persons who attended last year's Faire. In this list were the names and addresses of 219 persons who were not members of our group. It was discussed and decided that Marcy and Jim Brooks would compile a letter about what we had to offer along with an application and send a mailing to these persons immediatey so they could receive it before the 1989 Faire next month. Perhaps this will bring them to the Faire again, and maybe they will sign up for membership.

- Don had sent a complimentary copy of our Hardware Manual and our TI Writer Supplement Manual to Bill Gaskill. He liked them and is submitting a review of them to Micropendium Magazine. Watch for that article.

By the way, the TI Writer Supplement Manaual will be printed and ready for sale at the Faire in November.

- Lionel Bordelon, our Librarian, has 250 disks sent to him to be put in our library. 75 are from Belgium, 75 are from the LA Users Group, and 100 from Mr. Stanly Buyers. Thank you all for working with us on the Program Library Exchange. Lionel would like to get this into our library as quickly as possible. However, it takes time to run each one and write up a short description for each one. If anyone would be interesting in helping with this project, Lionel would be very gratefull. Please leave a message on the Hot Line or Bulletin Board for Lionel.

Lionel is having a little trouble with programs that are being sent to him to be put in our library. The problem is that a lot of the programs are on DS/SD or DS/DD disks and he only has a single sided drive. Don promoted the idea of the

group buying him a double sided drive so that he could follow through with his librarian functions. There was a motion on the floor that if the group did not have a double sided drive that was not being used for group work, that Lionel should be allocated the funds to purchase one. The motion was voted and passed.

AT the Faire Lionel has plans of having a 25 inch monitor at the library table to demonstrate various programs. He also is planning on packaging certain groups of disks to make special offers at the Faire. There was a motion on the floor that Lionel, as Head Librarian and doing all the work, his suggestions and pricing things certain ways for the Faire would be his decision and responsibility. The motion was voted and passed.

- Jim Brooks gave a report on the Membership status. We currently have a total of 415 members. This includes three new members and three new renewals since last month. It was brought up by Jim that some people are still only sending in $18 for their membership. The new policy is that if you send in your membership by mail, the price is $21. If you pay for membership in person at the meetings or any other functions from September 1st to December 31st, it is $18. The suggestion was passed that Jim send the persons that only paid $18 instead of $21 a postcard stating that their membership dues were $3 short.

- Oscar Bretana was not present to give a Treasurer's report. However, Len Rovner gave a report on the status of our non-profit application to the IRS. One of the good points of this is that we are not working to advance the Texas Instraments Company, and that we are helping a lot of companies and not giving a certain company the advantage over others. Len and his associates have put together a document for submitting to the IRS for them to grant us the status.

- Hank Ellerman gave a run down of the events coming up. The November meeting will be our Seventh Annual TI Faire being held at the Holiday Inn in Rolling Meadows. The December meeting will be our Annual Swap Meet and elections for new Executive Board Officers. The nominations for the 1990 Executive Board Officers was taken today and are as follows: President - Ernie Pergrem; Vice President - Don Jones; Treasurer - Oscar Bretana. We did not receive a nomination for Secretary. Marcy Brun is stepping down for at least one year, therefore, this position is open for nomination at this time. If you would be interested, please let us know. These other important positions are being held by these various persons for your information: Librarian - Lionel Bordelon; Editor - Bob Demeter; Membership - Jim Brooks; SysOP of Bulletin Board - Mike Maksimik, and there are many more persons helping to keep the group active.

Hank asked if anyone had suggestions on programs or hardware which they would like to be demonstrated at the meetings. One suggestion was for TI Artist. If you have any particular subject you would like to demonstrate or see demonstrated, please let us know through the Bulletin Board or the Hot Line.

- Mike Maksimik gave a report on the Bulletin Board. Today was the first day in a long time that the board had crashed. This time it was because someone had put in a program that messed it up.

Mike informed us that he will be making a special change to the Board. When he does this, all messages will be wiped out. He will put an announcement on the board a few days before he does this.

- At this point, Ernie Pergrem gave a report on the Educational Library Project. He is making a list of the programs and collecting addresses of schools that use TI's to send the list to. If you know of any educational institutions that use TI, let Ernie know of them.

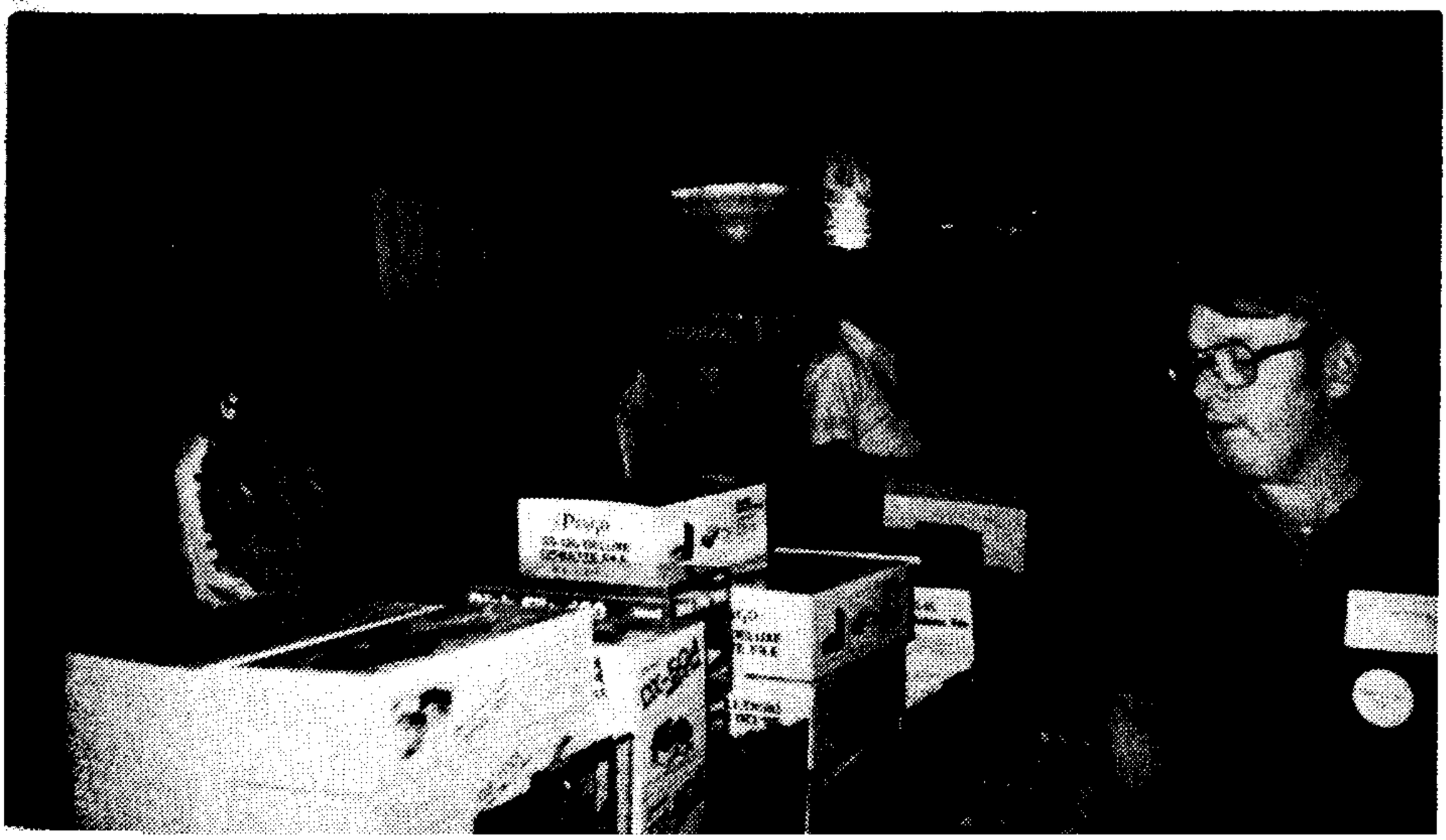
Ernie is also our Delphi SysOp, however, with his new job, he hasn't had much time to commit to this project lately. Ernie has suggested that since John Birdwell is with our group again and he is on Delphi a lot, maybe he would be able to help with this project.

- Sandy gave a review on how the preparations for the Faire are going. At this time all booths are sold out. We still need persons to donate their computer equipment to be used to rent to the exhibitors. This year if you donate a full system you will receive free membership for 1990. If you donate a monitor or TV you will receive seven pieces of software from the library. If you donate a full system with a monitor or TV you will receive the 1990 membership free and also the seven pieces of software.

If you are planning to attend the Friday Night Social Mixer and/or the Saturday Night Dinner, please get your reservations into Christine Chambers via the Hot Line or 312-476-3452. The number that can be seated at the dinner is limited. Last year we were turning away people.

- The Executive Board Meeting was adjourned at 1:00 pm. During the general meeting, Ernie had demonstrated the P-Gram Card. The General Meeting was over at 3:00 pm.

Submitted by: Marcy Brun, Secretary.



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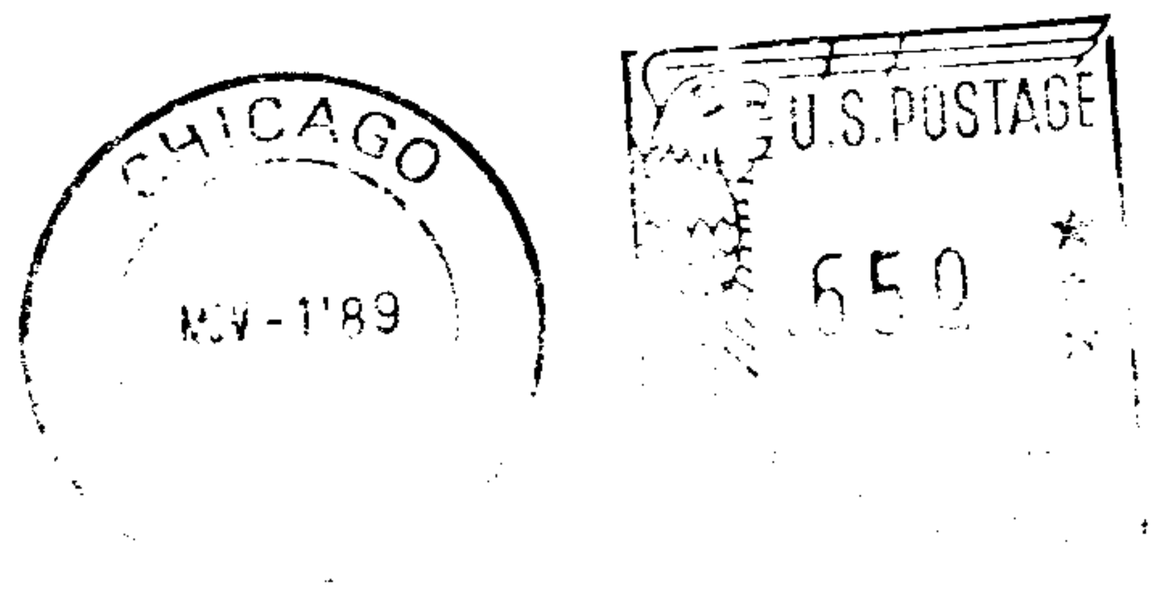


# EDITOR'S NOTES. . . .

Early in the week, it looked as if we were going to have a Don Jones, Bill Gaskill newsletter. These were the only 2 to get articles to me. But, by the 16th, I had all sorts of articles waiting for me. Matter of fact, I think we have a SUPER FAIRE ISSUE. Thanks to all the authors that help support this newsletter. If we could find someone to write a monthly technical article, it would be GREAT. If you have some free time and would like to write something, please do so.

If anyone is interested, I may be writing another article on sector editoring. This time it will be on hard drives formatted with Myarc's HFDC. The night of the deadline, I lost my hard drive. I keep all the newsletter stuff on this drive. I've spent the last day and a half retrieving files and backing the drive up. You may find it interesting knowing what some of the characters on the sectors mean. I got to find out the hard way. God Bless the programmer that gave me a copy of his unplublished sector editor.

My apologies to Tom Niemczyk for not mentioning that he wrote last months Library News article. I was going to do it in the Table of Contents. But, I ended up not having room for one. Sorry, Tom.

Please remember dues are $21.00 if paid by mail. Pay in person between Sept & Dec. and save $3.00.